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PAINTED EXPRESSLY FOR VICK'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

PHLOX AND PANSY.

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VICK'S
 Illustrated Monthly.
 JANUARY, 1878.
 Vol. 1. No. 1.

A GOOD many years ago we published an *Agricultural Journal*, and later, the *Horticulturist*. Some sixteen years since we commenced the publication of *Vick's Floral Guide*, at first, twice a year, but that did not seem to give us facilities for saying all we wished, or satisfy the people, so it was made *Quarterly* in 1873, and it has thus been continued to the present time. We thought it would be published *Quarterly* forever, or as long as the people wished to read it, or we lived to aid in its publication. Our friends, however, were not satisfied—perhaps unreasonable— anxious that we should visit them *Monthly*, and in an evil moment we intimated that we might do so the coming year, 1878. This announcement, which was made in the second number of the FLORAL GUIDE for 1877, was received heartily, and not only did hundreds write expressing their pleasure at the prospect, but many forwarded their subscriptions, leaving us no way of escape.

Kind reader, the first number is before you. We have tried to make it both interesting and profitable, and shall endeavor to make the succeeding numbers far more so. As our publication is now a Magazine in all respects, we give it a name in accordance with its character. For beauty we do not design to have it excelled by any journal in the world, and while it will have a character of its own, and be the index of what we think and feel and know, we may perhaps be allowed to express the hope, that, as a teacher of the people and a guide to the millions, it may prove without a rival. The price is placed very low, for the purpose of obtaining a large circulation, and thus accomplishing a great deal of good. We have no idea of publishing a high-priced Magazine for the few, but desire to reach the whole people, and we ask those who have urged us to publish a *Monthly*, and in fact all our friends every-

where, to aid us in the work. We must have a hundred thousand subscribers, and these can be speedily obtained, with a little zealous exertion in our behalf. We think we have never before asked a favor, but having undertaken this work at the solicitation of our friends, and in doing so depriving ourselves of a good deal of leisure and pleasure, we do ask all—every one—to make the sacrifice one that shall result in the greatest possible amount of good—and this can only be done by a large subscription list. We ask this boldly, because the low price at which we place our *Magazine* will show to every one that our main object is not personal gain, but public good.

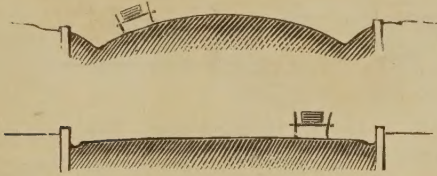
Such a Magazine would certainly cost, at the usual publishing rates, twice what we charge, which is only \$1.25 a year, and where a club of five or more is formed, the cost is only one dollar each. Our young friends who have no dollar to spare, may, therefore, secure a copy for themselves free, by getting four subscribers among their neighbors at \$1.25 each.

Each number of the MONTHLY will contain THIRTY-TWO PAGES, printed on the best paper we can procure, and liberally illustrated with engravings, while with every issue we shall give an elegant colored plate of some flower, or family of flowers, as fine and true to nature as the work of the best artists and our own supervision can produce. This will give nearly four hundred pages in the year, and twelve colored plates, making a book for binding worth, we think, many times its cost. Towards the close of the year neat cloth covers will be prepared for binding the volumes, which we shall be able to forward by mail, at a small cost, so that the numbers can be readily bound in good style by any binder in any town or village. With these remarks we introduce our last new child.

MAKING AND BEAUTIFYING ROADS.

COUNTRY ROADS.

NOTHING adds more to the beauty and prosperity of a county or village, than good roads, and yet road-making in most sections of our country seems to be but little understood; and generally, those who are entrusted with their superintendence know as little of the science of road-making as they know of the character of the man in the moon, or the geography of Central Africa. As a rule, our country roads



FLAT AND ROUNDED ROADWAYS.

are double the width necessary to accommodate the travel, usually sixty-six feet, while only about twelve or fifteen feet are available for the purposes of travel. No attempt is made to carry off the water, but the road is built out of the water by scraping up a pile of earth into the center, leaving deep ditches at the sides, and these, during the spring and autumn, are filled with water, and in the summer adorned with the fragrant flowers of the Canada Thistle and other pretty but unwelcome guests, which supply the neighboring fields with abundance of seeds, without expense or pleasure to the farmer or profit to the seedsman. On the top of this ridge the driver carefully and painfully picks his way, skilfully avoiding the ditch on either side. What is generally called "improving" a road, is hauling a little more soil from the ditches and piling it up in the center of the roadway, and when thus "improved" it looks better fitted for an onion bed than a highway. Our country roads are more than twice the width of English roads, but with us not more than a fourth of the space is fit for use, while every part of the English road is available.

In making a road the first thing necessary is to secure drainage. It is much easier to make a way for the water to run down hill than to pile up the earth till it reaches a line above the

water. The material best for a road is somewhat different from what we should choose for garden soil. Gravel or broken stone, something that will not make mud in a wet season, should be used for the road if it can possibly be obtained, even at considerable trouble and expense. If good drainage is secured, and the proper material used, there is no necessity for having the roadway so rounding as to make it unpleasant for travel; just sufficient fall to carry off the surface water is all that is necessary or profitable. If a road is made very rounding, all teams are of necessity compelled to keep to the center, and it is soon worn into ruts, there being only one track; but if a road is made nearly flat every foot is used, and it wears evenly, and no ruts will be seen. Our little engraving will illustrate this point. Every inch of a road should be kept in perfect order, and if we cannot afford to keep a road of sixty feet in good condition, let us be content with one of thirty or even twenty; and fortunately no more is needed. Twenty feet will allow two teams to pass easily. Such roads would look narrow and contracted, and disfigure the landscape, some may think, but



ENGLISH COUNTRY ROAD.

this is a mistake. When visiting the Isle of Wight, England, we were greatly de-



STONE AND GRAVEL ROAD.

lighted with a narrow, country road, between Ventnor and Sand Rock. It was not more than twenty feet in width and as smooth as a floor. We were so well pleased with this rural highway that we procured a photograph of it, from which was made the accompanying engraving.

A country road must be made in a cheaper way than the streets of our cities, or the suburban avenues that extend from cities to the country, and that for a mile or two are usually bordered by genteel residences; but, where stones abound in the fields, as they do in many places, to the injury of the crops, it is much better to use them in making good and permanent roads than to allow them to remain scattered over the soil, or gathered in monstrous piles, as we often see, occupying land to no good purpose, and furnishing a harbor for weeds and vermin. Remove the earth from the road a foot in depth, fill the space with the "cobble stones" from the fields, cover these with a few inches of gravel or coarse sand, and you have a perfect road, that, with an occasional dressing of gravel, will last for half a century. Such a road will cost something, but it is better to make a few rods each year, than to waste labor in scraping dirt about, as is seen in

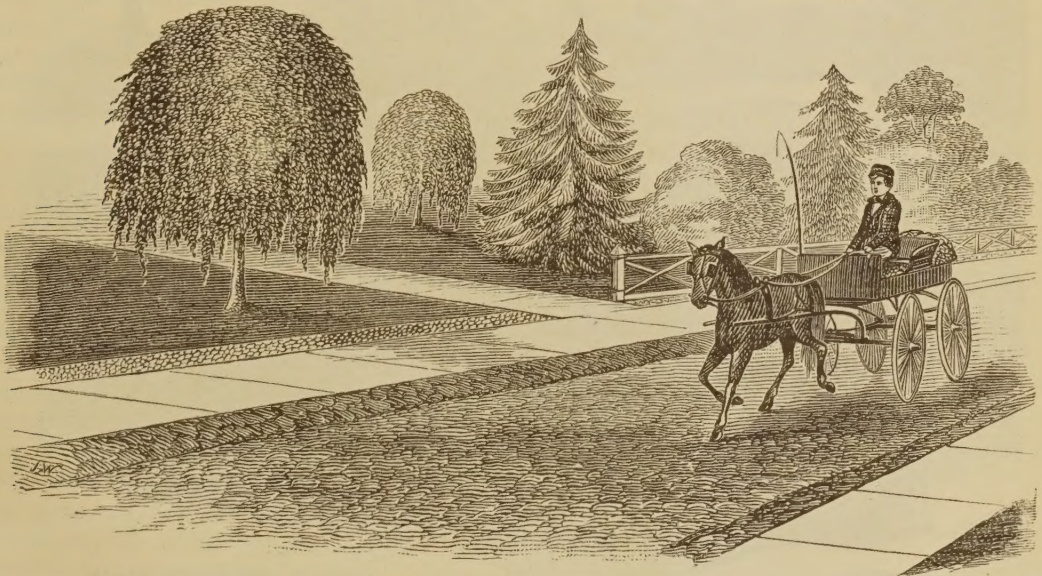
SUBURBAN STREETS AND AVENUES.

Streets in our cities, as well as the main avenues in their suburbs, are constructed in a more expensive manner than country roads, yet little judgment is exercised in their care. These avenues are usually McAdam, or what is better, the Talford road, which consists of quarried stone set on edge, say a foot in depth, the surface being made tolerably smooth by chips of broken stone, and this is cov-



STREET TREE ON NARROW SIDEWALK.

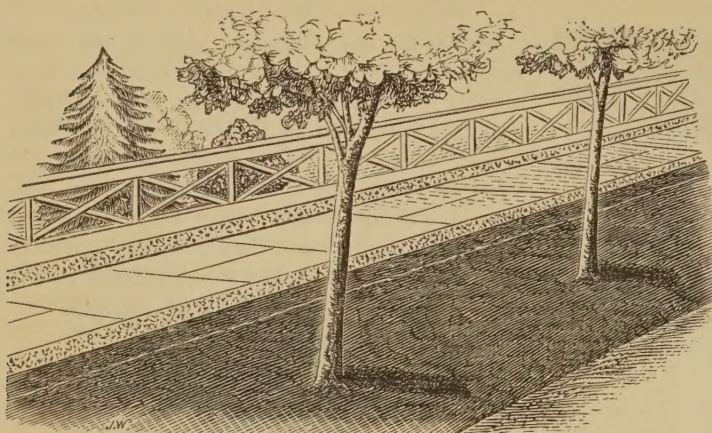
ered with six inches of stone, known as McAdam. Over this is placed a few inches of gravel, which is moistened and then rolled. Such a road, if well made and properly cared for, will last a century, and then be better than when first constructed. The practice in Europe



NARROW STREET WITHOUT TREES.

most places, and which amounts to nothing, except working out the road-tax. The above engraving will show the plan we propose.

is to give one or more persons charge of a certain section, and any little depression or rut is noticed at once and corrected, so that the road



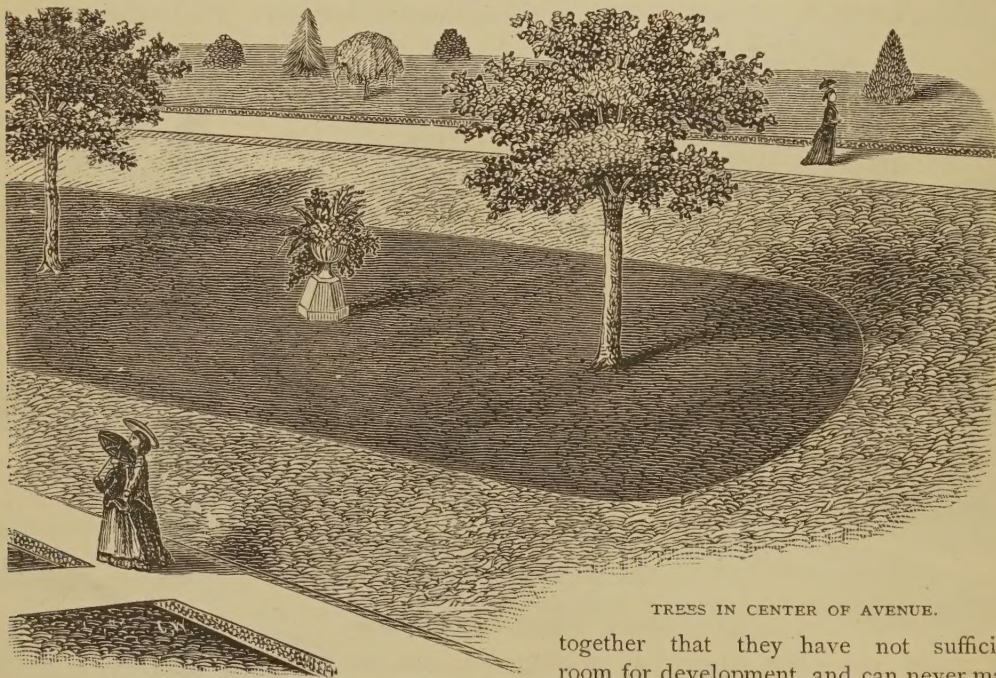
LAWN AND TREES ON SIDE OF AVENUE.

is constantly improving. The custom here is to make the road, and give it no attention. There are always depressions in a newly-made road, because the material will settle unequally. The water gathers in these depressions, keeping them soft, and they soon become holes and ruts, and when the road becomes almost impassable it has to be made anew, at great cost.

Our people love trees, and plant them in the streets everywhere, except in the business parts of our cities; and this is well, but even here we make many mistakes. Trees selected for streets should be hardy and those that naturally grow tall, with few branches near the bottom to obstruct travel and hide the street lamps. The American Elm is a good example of a street tree. Many persons plant low branching trees,

inable. No ornamental tree, as a general rule, should be pruned. Its beauty consists in the form given it by Nature, which man may mar but cannot mend.

A tree, to be healthy and handsome, must have suitable soil and room for its roots, and yet we see trees planted in narrow sidewalks, with the flagging pressed close to the bruised trunk, and even embedded in it, while the roots, in their efforts to grow, are constantly forcing the flags out of place, endangering the necks of pedestrians. We give an engraving of a tree in this situation, taken from one of our leading avenues. Occasionally the stones are taken up, and after the roots are chopped away, are replaced. A tree thus treated barely lives, a miserable, unsightly, sickly object, and then dies. On narrow sidewalks no trees should be planted, for a row a few feet inside of the fences will give all the shade required for a walk. The absence of the trees also adds to the apparent width of the street. We endeavored to show this plan in the engraving on the preceding page, but our artist failed to understand one point which we designed to exhibit—a row of shade trees near the front lines of the lots. Another great error in street planting is placing the trees so near



TREES IN CENTER OF AVENUE.

and then prune away the lower branches until they become the most unsightly objects imag-

together that they have not sufficient room for development, and can never make handsome trees; besides, a dense shade is not desirable. We need air and sunshine as well

as shade. Street trees should not be nearer than forty feet, especially large trees like elms.

Wherever new avenues are to be made, or old ones can be widened, if it is designed to plant trees in the street, arrangements should be made to give them a fair chance for their full development, and without this the whole will be a failure. There are two plans for street planting, which we will try and illustrate, one having a row of trees on each side, with a roadway in the center, and the other with two roadways, and a lawn and trees in the center. The first engraving shows the former plan, with a stone walk of five feet in width, a border of gravel each side of the walk, a foot in width, and ten feet of grass, in which the trees are planted. With

a roadway of thirty two feet, this would make a road sixty-six feet in width. When small stones are used for the walk it is well to have the border of gravel, as it can be readily cleaned with the hoe, while, if the grass reaches the flagging, it will work in among the joints of the stone and make trouble. If, however, the flags are large and well-laid, it is better to dispense with the gravel, and turf close to the flagging. Our next engraving shows the second plan, with a walk of eight feet, two roadways of seventeen feet each, and a lawn in the center, thirty feet wide, sufficient for a croquet lawn, and making a road eighty feet in width.

FENCES.

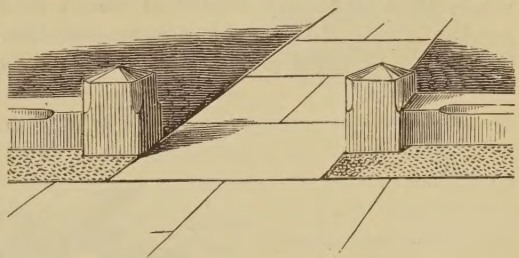
The English and Americans seem to have an insane love for fences. We fence the roads from the farms, and then divide the farms into little apartments, like enlarged checker-boards. We fence our village and city lots, and even disfigure our cemeteries by costly and unsightly fences. Every owner of a little lot in the City of the Dead must fence his twenty square feet of property, but whether for the benefit of the living or the dead is not clear. The English carry this folly to a still greater extreme, and most of the costly mansions with their elegant grounds, in the vicinity of London, and in fact everywhere, are surrounded by brick or stone walls, often six to eight feet in height, and even these are sometimes surmounted by broken bottles, or something of the kind, to make a passage over dangerous, if not impossible. The front gates, too, are solid and massiv^e, and



AN ENGLISH SUBURBAN STREET.

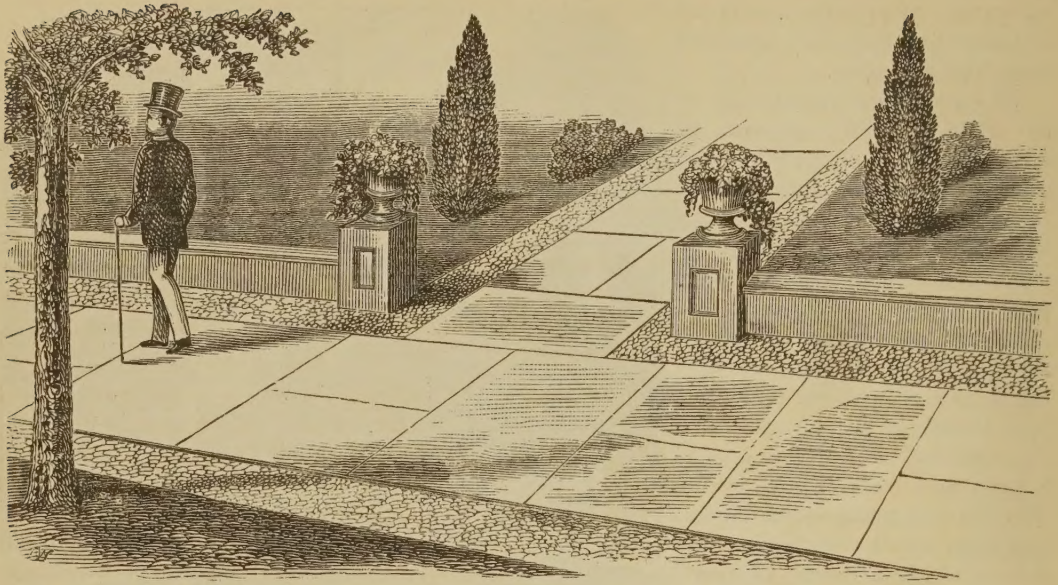
any one desiring admission must ring the bell, or go "tapping at the garden gate." The English law maxim, that "Every man's house is his castle," seems to be fully believed by the people, and many residences look as though they might endure a formidable siege. In places of more style, a porter is kept at the garden gate to wait on visitors. We give an engraving, taken from a photograph which we obtained when in England, of a street at Southsea, a pretty suburb of Portsmouth, illustrative of this subject, showing our readers the English love of seclusion, and how it is secured by gloomy garden walls.

The people of this country have begun at last to realize the folly of spending such vast amounts of money, not only uselessly but to the actual injury of their property, both in appearance and productiveness. Farmers are using



COPING, WITH PLAIN ENTRANCE.

fewer fences, while on many of the finest places in the neighborhood of our large cities front fences, and even division fences have been mainly discarded. In the engravings illustrating road making and tree planting, both plans are shown.



COPING, WITH ORNAMENTAL ENTRANCE.

A very pretty thing for the line between the street and the private grounds is a coping stone, which we have tried to illustrate in the accompanying engravings — one plain, and the other somewhat ornamental. When, however, the grass of the lawn reaches directly to the stone flagging and the avenue is kept in perfect order, there is no necessity for the coping; in some situations it is quite elegant.

The objections to this abandonment of fences are many, we presume, but not serious. The first is that it prevents the pasturage of cattle and pigs in the streets, but we do not think streets are made and kept up for any such purpose. Another is that stray cattle will occasionally destroy in a night the work of years. When cattle roamed the suburban avenues of Rochester, and every lot was securely fenced, we never escaped a summer without serious loss. Some unruly cow would scale the fence or unfasten the gate, and give admission to a whole herd of hungry friends in search of a good supper. Every night, almost, our slumbers were disturbed and our fears aroused by

the bellowing of these natural enemies of our gardens, warning us of threatened danger. Now we have no fences, or, if we have, the gates are open and we sleep on quietly during the summer nights, disturbed by no alarming sound, save occasionally the musical hum of the mosquito. Another objection named is that the destruction of fences destroys all privacy. This is in a measure true, but we have not yet seen the person who considered this a serious objection, or who would be willing to restore the fences when once removed. Some are apt to think that passers-by will take unwarranted liberties, pick flowers, &c., but this is not so. Remove your fences, place confidence in the people, and you put them on their good behavior. Nothing will be harmed. We have in our mind a place near this city, nicely planted with shade trees. Three years ago it was divided into three lots with hedges and fences; now all are removed, and we know of no prettier piece of lawn in the world.

In our next we will give a few suggestions upon the laying out of grounds.



THE PHLOX AND PANSY.

For our Colored Plate of this number we have chosen two of the most popular flowers, one a native of our own country, the other of Europe and America, and both prized by the lovers of flowers in every quarter of the civilized world.

THE PHLOX.

The PHLOX DRUMMONDII was only discovered about forty years ago, in Texas, by Mr. DRUMMOND, a botanical collector sent out by the Glasgow Botanical Society, and it was one



of the last plants sent home, for soon after he visited Cuba and died. Sir W. J. HOOKER named this species *Drummondii*, "that it may serve as a frequent memento of its unfortunate discoverer."

The word Phlox signifies *flame*, and is applied to this genus in allusion to the flame-like form of the buds, as shown in the engraving. The Phlox has undergone constant improvement since its discovery, and the plates of this flower published



even twenty-five years ago bear but little resemblance to the beautiful and almost perfect flowers that we now possess. The latest improvement is the *P. grandiflora*, shown in our Colored Plate. The flowers are large, colors good, form perfect, but it is not as free a bloomer as the old kinds, and not so desirable for forming a mass of color, like a ribbon bed.

No annual excels the Phlox for a brilliant and constant display. Indeed, if confined to one

plant for the decoration of the lawn or border, it would be difficult to find one more desirable than this. The colors range from the purest white to the deepest crimson, including purple, and striped, the clear eye of the Phlox being peculiarly marked. There is a yellow variety, but the color is not very clear. Seed may be sown in the open ground in May, or in a cold-frame or hot-bed earlier in the season; and in either case, from



June, during the whole summer and autumn, they make a brilliant bed of showy yet delicate flowers.

In a rich soil, the plants will grow more than eighteen inches in height, but as there is not sufficient strength in the main stem, they will not stand entirely erect; a foot apart is about near enough to set them, unless the soil is very poor. If planted too close they suffer from mildew. There is no difficulty in obtaining new varieties of the Phlox, but those we now possess are so good it is not easy to obtain better.

THE PANSY.

The little *Heartsease*, or wild *Three Colored Violet*, bears so little resemblance to the magnificent flowers we call *Pansies* that at first sight there would seem to be no connection between the two, and no one but a botanist, or one acquainted with its history would believe such a beautiful child belonged to so humble a parent.



Few flowers show in such a wonderful manner the effects of care and culture. For many years back the Heartsease was cultivated in the gardens, but was not considered worthy the attention of florists. About sixty years ago, a very young English

lady, living on the bank of the Thames, had a little flower garden of her own in her father's grounds, and one bed that was heart-shaped, she filled with Pansies, wisely selecting the finest plants from the other grounds to supply her own little bed. The gardener of her father, a Mr. RICHARDSON, seeing the interest she took in the

Pansy, began to partake of the same feeling, and grew plants from seeds of the choicest specimens. Soon the little heart-shaped bed attracted the attention of professional florists, and speedily the Pansy became a popular florist's flower. The Pansy gives abundance of bloom until after severe frosts, enduring our hard winters with safety, and greeting us in the earliest spring with a profusion of bright blossoms. It will flower better in the middle of the summer, if planted where it is somewhat shaded from the hot sun, and especially if furnished with a good supply of water, but in almost any situation will give fine flowers in the spring and autumn. If plants come into bloom in the heat of summer,



the flowers will be small at first; but as the weather becomes cooler, they will increase in size and beauty. Often plants that produce flowers two and a half inches in diameter during the cool, showery weather of spring, will give only the smallest possible specimens during the dry weather of summer. To have good flowers, the plant must be vigorous, and make a rapid growth. No flower is more easily ruined by ill treatment or adverse circumstances. Seed may be sown in the hot-bed or open ground. If young plants are grown in the autumn, and kept in a frame during the winter, they will be ready to set out very early in the spring, and give flowers until hot weather. If seed is sown in the spring, get it in as early as possible, so as to have plants ready to flower during the spring rains. Seed sown in a cool, shady place, and well watered until up, will make plants for autumn flowering. The Pansies make a beautiful bed, and are interesting as individual flowers. No flower is so companionable and life-like. It requires no very great stretch of the imagination to cause one to believe that they see and move, and acknowledge our admiration in a very pretty, knowing way. The Pansy is peculiarly adapted for flowering in the South during the cool, moist winter weather, and the finest and largest flowers we have ever seen were grown in our Southern States.

BOTANY FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

“Does this plant have a flower, or is it cultivated only for its foliage?” How many times are we asked this question about plants! And very often our reply is, “It is cultivated only for its foliage.” This answers the latter part of the question, but not the whole of it. Suppose, then, we say that almost all plants have flowers, but some are so insignificant and devoid of beauty they are unnoticed and uncultivated.

The whole Vegetable Kingdom consists of two great divisions, namely, Flowering Plants and Flowerless Plants. The flowerless plants are the Ferns, Mosses, Lichens, Liverworts, Seaweeds, and Fungi or Mushrooms. The flowering plants consist of every kind, excepting those above-named, — thus every tree and every shrub, every plant and every green herb, excepting the Ferns and the Mosses, bear flowers of some kind. Some are very beautiful, and some we do not deign to notice. If, however, we should examine what appears to be the meanest flower, we should find it composed of the same parts as those flowers we so much admire. Now this division of the Vegetable

Kingdom into two parts, as we have noticed, appears very simple, and it is so natural we can easily remember it.

If we will examine still further, and look at all the flowering plants, we shall find that they are divided into two great classes, and the separation of these classes is as simple as the one we have just considered, when we understand it. If we should watch a cabbage seed, a melon or a cucumber seed, for instance, when it germinates, we should see just after it comes out of the ground it spreads out two little, rounded leaves, and then, as the plant grows, some more leaves come up right between the first leaves. This is all seen in the annexed cut, — the first two leaves, commonly called the seed-leaves, are marked C. C. The proper name is *Cotyledon*, and is pronounced *Coty le don*. These seed-leaves are in the seed, and



C, C, COTYLEDON, OR SEED LEAVES OF A YOUNG PLANT.

form the thick, solid part of the seed, or the meat, as we call it in a nut. Sometimes these two parts will easily separate in the seed, as we have all noticed in the bean, that easily splits into two parts. They are often called the seed-lobes. When the hard covering of the seed is softened by the moisture of the earth it bursts open, and the seed-lobes or cotyledons usually spread themselves



YOUNG PLANT OF CORN.



SPROUTING GRAIN OF CORN.

out, and we call them the first leaves; but sometimes the cotyledons do not come up above the ground.

Now, looking at a grain of corn as it starts to grow, we find only a single spear shooting up, and as this advances in growth another



LILY OF THE VALLEY, SHOWING NERVED LEAVES.



LEAF OF BEGONIA REX, SHOWING THE NETTED VEINS.

rolled-up leaf, comes up *inside* of the first one, and thus the successive leaves appear, each



LEAF OF TEA ROSE.

inside of the last one. The fleshy part of the grain or the cotyledon has not come up and spread itself out like a leaf, but has been undergoing a change, and its substance has afforded nutriment for the growing plant. In this case the fleshy part of the seed was not divided into two parts, as in the cabbage or melon seed, or the bean, as first explained, and such plants are said to have but one cotyledon and are called *monocotyledons*, the Greek word *mono* meaning ONE; the others are called *dicotyledons* or TWO *cotyledons*.

These, then, are the two great classes into which all the flowering plants are divided,—*Monocotyledons* and *Dicotyledons*.

Now I know that some of my young readers are ready to ask how they are to tell which plants have one seed-lobe and which have two seed-lobes; or, in other words, which are *monocotyledons* and which are *dicotyledons*. "Surely we cannot watch the seed of every plant grow to find out how many seed-lobes it has?" No, this you cannot do; but please notice how the leaves of the corn grew;—first come up one leaf, and then the next one *inside* of that, and the next one *inside* of the last one, and each successive growth is inside of the previous one. Now, all plants that grow in this way are called *inside-growers*, and if you will look at the leaves you will notice that the veins all run parallel to each other,—starting at the base they run along together side by side, and, as they come near the end, draw up closer to each other until they come together at the point or extremity of the leaf. All such leaves are called *parallel-veined leaves*.

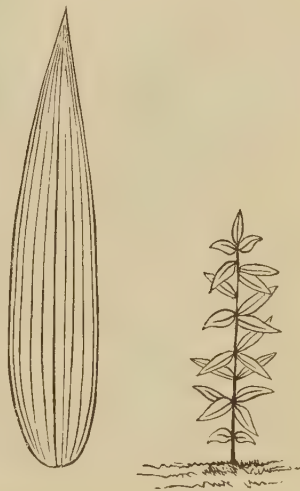
When we see a parallel-veined leaf, then, we know the plant is an *inside-grower*, and its seed has but one seed-lobe. We give an engraving of the Lily of the Valley, which has such a leaf, so we know that it is an *inside-grower*. The proper name for *inside-grower* is *Endogen*.

The picture of the leaf of the Begonia shows the veins all running together like net-work, and such a leaf is said to be *net-veined*. Now, all the net-veined leaves grow on plants the seeds of which have two lobes. You can



CROSS SECTION OF OAK TREE.

always tell a net-veined leaf by holding it up to the light,—the veins can be plainly seen running together. The method of growth in plants with netted veins is just the reverse of what it is in those with parallel veins; in these we have seen that the growth is inside, but the plants that have netted veins grow on the outside. We can explain this best by a tree, such as the maple or oak, which makes a new growth every year, and all the new wood it makes is formed between the bark and the old wood. Every year a ring of new wood is formed outside of the old wood and next to the bark. This new wood being formed in rings every year, we are able to see just how much has grown each year, and the rings are so plain that they can be counted. If we take a tree that is several years old, and cut it down, we can count the number of rings on the stump, and tell just how many years old it is. These rings show somewhat in the engraving above. It is in this way people



LILIUM LONGIFLORUM—LEAF AND PLANT.

are able to tell the age of very old trees, like the Mammoth Trees of California, which are said to be many hundreds of years old. In very

old trees some of the rings become indistinct and cannot always be clearly traced, and therefore the exact age of such trees cannot be decided. Dr. Asa Gray, who has examined the great trees, the Wellingtonias, says, "Fifteen hundred annual layers have been counted, or satisfactorily made out, upon one or two fallen trunks. It is probable that close to the heart of some of the living trees may be found the circle that records the year of our Savior's nativity."

A plant that is an outside-grower is called an *Exogen*. From what has been said you will be able to distinguish very readily which plants are outside-growers and which are inside-growers; or, in other words, which are *Exogens* and which are *Endogens*.

We see that plants having one seed-lobe have parallel-veined leaves, are inside-growers, and are called *Monocotyledons* or *Endogens*; that those having two seed-lobes have netted-veined leaves, are outside-growers, and are called *Dicotyledons* or *Exogens*. Another great difference in these two classes of plants is that the inside-growers or endogens, even the largest specimens, such as the Palm trees, have no real bark, the surface of the trunk being precisely like the interior, except that it is a little hardened and roughened by exposure to the weather. The trees and shrubs of the exogens have a bark, and even the smallest plants of this class have an outside coating distinct from the inner part of the stem.



A GROUP OF EXOGENOUS PLANTS.

Here, then, are the two great classes into which all flowering plants are divided, and when a botanist takes a plant or part of a plant to examine, the first thing he does is to look at



A GROUP OF ENDOGENOUS PLANTS.

a leaf and see if the veins are parallel, or if they are net-veined, and which ever it is decides whether the plant is an *exogen* or an *endogen*. Most of the flowering plants which we have in our gardens, such as Verbenas, Heliotropes, Fuchsias, and all the annual flowers, are exogens or outside-growers; and so are our garden vegetables, such as Cabbage and Lettuce, and Cucumbers and Potatoes; so, also, are the flowering shrubs, like the Roses and Lilacs, and the trees of our forests, and those that we cultivate for ornament, such as the Oak, the Beech, the Elm, the Birch, the Willow, the Pine, &c. But the Tulip and the Hyacinth, the Crocus and the Lily, the Calla and other bulbous plants, are endogens, and so is Corn or Maize, and Grass, and the Yucca, the Banana, and all the Palm trees.

We have now given you a glimpse of a systematic arrangement of the Vegetable Kingdom, and hereafter when you look at a leaf you will be able to determine to which class it belongs, whether an *Exogen* or an *Endogen*, whether it belongs in the group with the Rose and the Oak, or with the Lily and the Palm.

The Rose leaf and the Lily leaf, which are represented on the previous page, show very clearly the arrangement of the veins — the Rose leaf is cut in outline, but the netted-veins are shown on a small part at the point of the leaf. We also show a group of exogens, containing a Willow and a Fir tree, a plant of Ricinus or Castor-oil Bean, a Rose, a Pond Lily and a Water Dock; and a group of endogens, showing a Palm tree, a Banana, a Caladium, a Canna, a Cypridium or Lady Slipper, and a Typha or Cat-tail Flag.



HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

MAKING A HOME IN TEXAS.

Sitting here, on my cool, shaded porch, enjoying the beauty and fragrance of my flowers, I feel constrained to write and tell you how I am succeeding in beautifying one of the rudest homes I ever saw. Hard times drove us into many retrenchments and sacrifices, and finally we concluded to move to the country. My husband selected a building site on a retired part of our farm, built a rude box house with three rooms, for temporary use, until we became able to build a nice dwelling; and we moved into it a year and a half ago, with many of the inconveniences and drawbacks attending the settling up of a new place. My friends were full of pity because I was "buried in the woods," but when my husband first brought me here I surveyed the place with great satisfaction. It was high and airy, beautiful forest trees in the yard, and on a slope west of the house was four acres, cleared and put out in apples, peaches, pears and grapes, and all kinds of small fruits. I observed that the soil was a rich, dark, sandy loam, and thought my case did not call for sympathy, remarking to myself, "The place looks pretty rough now, but Mr. VICK and I can mend that." So I went to work with a will. There were many unsightly objects to be gotten rid of, but soon all were removed or covered, and a delightful lawn of blue grass, with a few mounds and beds, partially shaded by native oaks and hickories, made our home a place of beauty. I had an Indian wigwam built of brush, large enough for a summer reading-room, and obtained cane from the creek bottom for frames for Madeira vines to run on. For shade I planted ever blooming roses and flowering shrubs; you sent me seeds and to-day, when my friends call, they say, "Oh, what a perfectly lovely Eden you have here!" Every seed I planted did well, except the Pinks, which I must try again. I wish you could look down here, and see my brush summer-house covered with

Morning Glories; my huge Cypress cones, and arches (made of hickory poles and barrel hoops); my splendid double rose Balsams, my mounds, blazing with double Portulaca, Verbenas, Petunias and Phlox. By every tree I have a climber—Clematis, Jasmine and Honeysuckle. I have not said anything of my magnificent Zinnias, nor my comical Pansies. Those superb Pansies, that are the admiration of the country! People who are strangers to me come here to see "them flowers that have faces," they say. One poor fellow, who perhaps had never admired a flower before, the other day exclaimed, while looking at my Pansy bed, "I'd give five dollars if that 'ere was in my yard."—MRS. J. D. H., *Ladonia, Texas.*

THE WAY TO FAIL.

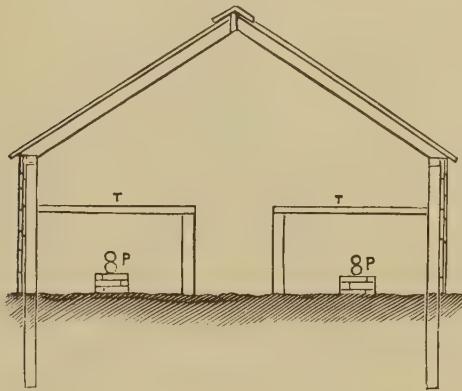
Many I have known to fail in flower gardening because they commence at the top of the ladder instead of the bottom, and I thought it best that they should be told this fact. A lady has seen beautiful flowers in her neighbors' gardens, and resolves to have flowers next season. (I have a friend particularly in my mind.) Of course she wants the very best, and sees puffed in the papers, perhaps by editors who know nothing of the matter, or, advertised by some seedsman, a wonderful new thing, from Japan or Timbuctoo, or some other outlandish place. This must be obtained at any cost. All the money that can be spared is invested in a few of these new and wonderful things. The fancy seeds are committed to the ground with a feeling of exultation. The neighbors, perhaps, have not heard of these wonderful acquisitions, and will open their eyes pretty wide when the flowers appear in their glory, and they find their flowers and gardens left entirely in the shade. As usual, a fall follows pride. Half of the new things not being adapted to our climate never reach a flowering state; others are only slightly different in color or form from varieties we now possess, very

interesting, perhaps, to the florist, or even the curious and experienced amateur, but of no use to the beginner. The good old Asters and Stocks, and Balsams and Petunias that any one can grow, were neglected, and disappointment is the result.

My advice is commence with a few simple hardy things, and not too many. Do what you do thoroughly. One little bed with a dozen good plants is a delight; a whole garden full of starved, neglected things, is misery. I know you have always taught this. I learned it from your works. It needs repeating.—SUCCESSFUL AMATEUR.

CHEAP GREEN-HOUSES.

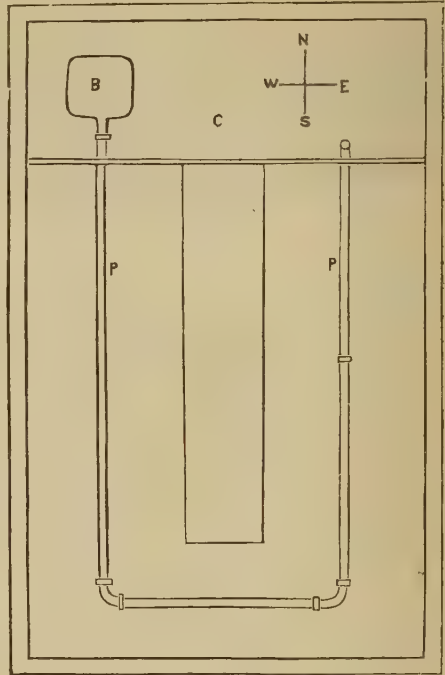
MR. JAMES VICK:—*Sir*:—Enclosed find drawings of a small green-house, which is the exact size of one I built last summer, and I am so well pleased with it that I feel it my duty to write to you and give you plans, so that those who wish may build like it. I set Locust posts in the ground two and a half feet, leaving four feet above ground; then I nailed rough boards on the posts, over this I tacked building paper, and over the paper I nailed the weather-boards. This makes a very warm house. This will last nearly as long as a hollow, brick wall, if the weather-boards are kept painted. It is heated with a base-burning boiler, which does its work well. You will understand how the pipes run by referring to the plans. I have had my little flower garden in the summer for a great many years, but when the cold weather came it would kill everything,



T. Table. P. P. Two rows of pipe.

so I concluded to have a flower garden in the winter as well. I sell enough plants in the spring to buy all my coal, and have some left for buying new plants.—C. D. CHANDLER, Fair Haven, N. J.

The length of this house is 18 feet, but it can be made of any desired length. We would advise not to build it less than 20 feet in length, and if so much room is

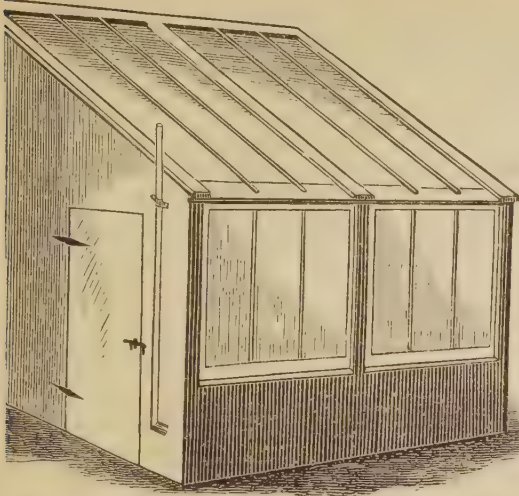


C. Cellar or boiler-pit. B. Boiler, P. P. Hot water pipes.

wanted it will be found economy to extend it to 50 feet. The tables are 4½ feet wide, and the space for walk 2 feet; the whole width of the house being 11 feet. The two rows of pipes running around the house are laid one over the other, resting on brick pillars three bricks high. We should prefer to lay them side by side on the brick-work. We are not informed whether the roof is constructed with fixed sash-bars, or is covered with movable sash. It will be found to be both cheaper and warmer to construct it with fixed sash-bars, with a few small sash hinged to the ridge-board for ventilation. The house stands north and south, with the boiler in the north-west corner. This is proper, for, in this manner, the heat is carried in the direction of the prevailing winds. The end of the house remote from the boiler, we presume is glazed, at least it should be so, while the north end may be tightly boarded.

To a gentleman of Baltimore we are indebted for the following sketch of a cheap plant-house. Those of us who live in a more severe climate will need to provide a little more effectually against extreme cold:—

I would like to give you an account of some very pleasant and successful experience I have had in growing flowers in winter, by which your readers may be informed that the luxury of a hot-house may be enjoyed without the usual requirements of being 'well off.' I live on the North side of a street running East and West. My rear fence is ten feet in height, of tongue and groove heavy Yellow Pine. Against this I built a little hot-house seven feet square, front height six feet, and back nine feet. Having about my house all the necessary tools, and being accustomed from boyhood to their use, I undertook to build it myself, and made quite a good job of it. The house finished, I stocked



GREENHOUSE. — OUTSIDE ELEVATION.

it with plants for the winter, and arranged a square tin vessel under the lower stand, filled with water, below which I placed a coal oil lamp for heating. This I soon found destroyed nearly all the foliage in the house. I then had constructed a tin tank, seven feet by twelve inches and four inches deep, with a hollow bottom two inches deep; into this hollow bottom I had three large holes cut for three lamps, and in the end of same a pipe was attached to run outside of the house as a chimney to carry off the fumes of the lamps. This tank filled with water required but one lamp placed under the middle hole to keep the house warm during the severest weather — the house being covered at night with carpet over the top and front, and my flowers prospered and grew splendidly. Over this tank I started, in boxes, all my Spring seed, and this service alone was worth all my trouble and expense. I will give you my memorandum of expenses, and hope it may tend to encourage some other lovers of flowers to possess themselves of one of the greatest pleasures and comforts they can have while engaged in their favorite pursuit.

2 old Sash, 3¼ by 3¼ feet, for front,	\$1 00
225 feet flooring, tongue and groove, at \$3.50,	7 88
48 feet 2 by 3 Scantling, at \$2.75,	1 32
2 top Sash, made to order,	2 50
Staging, (work done by myself,)	3 40
Painting, (work done by myself,)	60
Hardware,	1 50
Cord and Pullies for top sash,	80
Tank and Lamps for heating,	9 70
Total,	\$28 70

Tables, shelves, racks, &c., I built out of old lumber from recent fence repairs. I kept no account of oil, but think I used about a gallon per week for the one lamp, the largest made. Price paid for oil, 20 cents per gallon. I enclose a card, on which I have tried to give you an idea of my little pet.

BULBS AT THE SOUTH.

My mother taught me, only as a mother can teach, to love the flowers, but the sad results of the war smothered my passion for a time. I have stood and gazed with tears upon three lovely terraces ruined, my Deodar Cedars, Gardenias, Ligustrums, Junipers, Laurels, Magnolias, Photinias, and many other valuable trees I had planted years before, crushed, ruined and burnt for firewood. The day, however, has brightened a little. The first gleams illumined my sad heart last winter, by the erection of a green-house and digging a pit. I am also the happy possessor of a little parterre. Please allow me to give a little advice to the planters of bulbs in the South. I think the cause of failure in bulb and Pæony culture in the South is attributable to the selection of a wrong location, and manner of planting. I have grown them for over 25 years with marked success; have seen one splendid bed of Tulips parched by a summer's sun, in a garden in the adjoining neighborhood. The Pæony plants and Tulips require dense shade, — my bed was under a large, well-branched Ligustrum, and had nothing else on it but Violets. Of course, it was well-drained; the soil was composed entirely of leaf-mould and sand. I always use liquid guano (home-made from the stables), pale as ale. With us the Pæony will not thrive in a sunny spot. I have grown Hyacinths of all shades and sorts. They delight in pretty much the same kind of a soil, except I use well-decayed cotton seed. There is nothing better in small quantities; it renders the soil light, and adds to the richness of it. Indeed, it is our main dependence in the vegetable garden as a fertilizer. Is the Thrift hardy? Do you think it will stand out all winter with us? — MRS. C. R. B., *St. Elmo, Claiborne Co., Miss.*

The Thrift is perfectly hardy here.

GROWING PERENNIALS FROM SEED. — A lady, of Pennsylvania, does not succeed in getting Perennials to grow from seed very well, especially if planted late, though succeeding very well with Annuals. It is pretty difficult to get any seed to germinate in the open ground after the hot, dry weather of summer commences. Some seasons we have showers pretty freely through the summer, and then there is no difficulty. Seeds of Perennials may be sown as late as August, but the soil must be kept shaded and constantly moist. If allowed to become once dry the whole may be ruined. Constant moisture and shade are necessary to the germination of seeds during the summer.

DESTRUCTION OF INSECTS.

I feel so much emboldened by your recent invitation for experience in the insect line, I give you mine. Some years ago I had about an acre of garden and about eighty varieties of flowers, but in the fall could find no good seed. Searching late in the day, I found that the seeds, as they ripened, were eaten by a beetle like an English earwig, only smaller. We then got a bottle of Persian powder, which cleared them, but too late to save many sorts of seeds. I have used it ever since when needful, and always find it answer for flowers. Four years afterwards, everybody's late cabbage beds were attacked. The plants were green at night, and yellow and cut down in the morning. Something had to be done, so I thought I would try weaning them. I sent for ten cents' worth of bitter Aloes, scalded it, and when cold put some in each watering-pot of water, and watered the beds well. One dose did for that year, and we lost no more plants, though thousands had been destroyed before we applied the Aloes. I have used it in hot-beds for insects. I would like to say something about the Potato Onion. We have had them planted late in the fall, and with some litter thrown over them they will stand 30 deg. below zero, and be first in market in the spring. They will keep well in a cool cellar, but grow in too warm a one. Their flavor is milder than the sets or Top Onions. I must tell you of the beautiful Cockscombs we raised—they were so admired, both Japan and crimson. I cut off the flower of one with three inches of stalk, and it weighed eleven and a half ounces, and was not the largest.—Mrs. M. R. GODWIN, *Davenport, Iowa.*

GLADIOLUS BULBS.

MR. VICK:—You don't know how pleased I am, and how my fears have all gone to the winds or somewhere! I purchased twenty-five Gladiolus bulbs, and they were so small I was sure they would not flower this year. Four of them would not weigh as much as one of my old ones, for they are as large as sauce plates, and quite flat, while those purchased were roundish. I put them in a good soil, being determined that if they did not bloom the fault should not be mine. When the weather became dry I watered them, giving the soil a good soaking, and have continued to do so up to the present time. The result is a flower-spike for every bulb, and such a splendid collection—no two alike. They make my old kinds look shabby, and I shall throw them away. Did

the watering and the rich soil do the work? I never had such small bulbs flower before.—F. J. S., *Branch Co., Mich.*

Very soon we shall give a colored plate of Gladioli, accompanied by an article on their culture, varieties, etc., in which we will endeavor to make this matter plain. We will only now say that the old inferior sorts are more robust in habit, with larger bulbs, and increase much more rapidly than most of the new and fine sorts. A bulb as large as a walnut is a good flowering size for most of the new named sorts, or for a good seedling.

CHINESE PRIMROSE.

MR. VICK:—You have given us much instruction about culture of flowers in the house in winter, for which I am sure thousands of ladies besides myself are very thankful. If any one had told me six years ago that I could have learned so speedily and successfully to care for flowers, I am sure I would not have believed them. After I got a few ideas, however, and commenced to practice, progress seemed easy, and without effort, or rather the efforts were all pleasant. It was



CHINESE PRIMROSE.
(From a Photograph.)

no labor, for pleasant employment is not laborious. I have tried many plants for winter-flowering which you have recommended; among others the Chinese Primrose. I had one that was a wonder. It commenced flowering about the middle of last winter, or earlier, and continued up to May a perfect beauty. When I thought it was almost over it sent up a second story, and after that a third, and was a marvel of endurance and beauty. I had a photograph taken of this plant, which I enclose. As fast as the flowers faded handsome seed-pods were formed, but I do not think the seeds perfected. It was the *Fern-leaved* variety.—EVA L.

FLOWERING SWEET PEAS.—I see that some of your correspondents have been unsuccessful in flowering Sweet Peas. I have grown them a great many years, and my experience is that if grown in a shady and cool place in the garden, like the north side of a fence or building, they will always give abundance of bloom clear into cold weather, especially if, in a dry time, water is given. In a sunny place in the garden I have failed in hot, dry seasons, but never in a cool place, with partial shade.—HATTIE.

FLOWER GARDENING IN OREGON.

I have just come in from a visit to the flower garden, where I have been enjoying a feast of beauty. The flowers are so unusually large; and so very beautiful this season, that I thought I must write to Mr. VICK and tell him about them. The last I looked at were the Double Petunias, and such rich, grand flowers as they are! We have two plants, each of which cover a space of ground three feet in diameter, and covered with flowers as large as the colored engraving in the GUIDE for 1875, but more perfect in form;—that is, more rose-like in the arrangement of the petals. Indeed, when put in bouquets, they are often mistaken for large, crimson roses. There are many other plants, but with smaller flowers, though quite as handsome and perfect. The single flowers from the same paper of seeds are beautiful, very large, velvety flowers; and one of these is very unique and beautiful, being a queer, grayish-rose color, marked and veined with deep crimson and almost black, showing just the slightest inclination to double, the one or two folded petals in the center being much darker colored than the rest of the flower, the edges of which are slightly fringed. Of the fringed Petunias I have succeeded in saving only three plants, and two of these are now in blossom, and though not large are extremely beautiful. We have a large bed of mixed Petunias—crimson, purple, lilac, white, and the lovely blotched and striped—which, if not a “joy forever,” is certainly a joy and thing of beauty from early June till October. These beautiful flowers ought to be in every collection, however small. But for gorgeous, brilliant show of color, nothing, I think, can surpass the Portulaca. I have a large bed of them, (which was filled in with light, sandy soil,) and it is of the most metallic brilliancy imaginable. The flowers are very large and double as roses.

Now I must tell you about our Balsams. I am certain you do not grow finer ones than we have this year. I planted thirty-five seeds and all came up but three; thirty-one thrived and are now in blossom, and of these three are single, two or three semi-double, while the rest are larger than your engraving, double as roses, and beautiful beyond description,—scarlet, pale rose, pink, crimson, purple and white spotted, scarlet and white marbled, and scarlet striped and spotted with white, &c. I am almost tempted to say they are the most beautiful flowers I ever saw; but then there are the Ten-Weeks' Stock, Asters, Phlox, &c., which grow to perfection here, and I dare not say which is the most beautiful. I had a paper of mixed

Verbenas this year, and planted them in the hot-bed; thirteen came up, and I set them two feet apart each way in the bed, and by the middle of July they had covered every inch of ground, and were crowding their neighbors. There are eleven different colors and shades of color in this bed. The Montana Verbena does not do well here; why, I do not know.

The Cockscombs grow splendidly here, and are among the richest flowers in the garden. It seems strange to read in your books that the Sweet Alyssum and Mignonette are “small plants,” as the latter covers as much ground as a strong Verbena, and the Alyssum, when set six inches apart in a single row, spread out a foot on each side, making a snow white border two feet wide. Clarkia grows four feet high, Candytuft and Dwarf Larkspur grow over two feet sometimes. By the way, you do not recommend the white Candytuft half enough; I think it the most beautiful white flower for bedding and bouquets that grows,—it keeps in bloom a long time, too. The Cassia has proven to be more beautiful and delicate than I imagined; the foliage is so beautiful and delicate, and the delicate, golden flowers, more than an inch in diameter, are borne in such great profusion. I am most agreeably disappointed in it.

The Lychnis, Brachycome, Anagallis, Salpiglossis and Browallia, are new flowers to me this year, and I am very much pleased with them, especially the blue Anagallis and Browallia. Two other flowers I am rather disappointed in—the Lupinus and Crepis. The former grew tall and rank, but had a few small, faded-looking spikes of flowers, of a pale, whitish-pink color, instead of the crimson-scarlet color expected. I had a paper of mixed Crepis, planted a large bed of them, and every one is yellow, and looks more like dandelions than anything else I can think of. Can it be the soil, or climate? The Bismarck Larkspur has not proved true, but it may not have been cultivated long enough to get it pure. The plants are very large and tall, flowers perfectly double, but not a “red-striped” one, all being dark violet and pinkish-crimson. It is beautiful, but not the “Bismarck.”

Thanking you for your floral books, which none can appreciate more than we who live in these wild Oregon woods, away from civilization and society, I remain your friend, L. D. OLNEY, *Chetco, Oregon.*

What a glorious border of Sweet Alyssum, two feet wide, from single plants, and Mignonette plants covering four or five feet. The striped flowers like Bismarck, are not reliable. They are apt to “go back” to the original. Our Oregon friends must not expect *everything* to be wonderfully good, so must bear with the Crepis.



FOREIGN NOTES.

BULBS IN HOLLAND.

We have given to the readers of the *FLORAL GUIDE* more than once our observations among the Tulips and Hyacinths of Holland. A correspondent of the *London Gardeners' Chronicle* gives the following facts, which we can endorse:—"A visit to Haarlem and its bulb fields, together with an inspection of the numerous and spacious warehouses where the bulbs are stored, can alone serve to furnish a reply to the question—Where do all the bulbs come from? Hyacinths and Tulips constitute the chief field crops of the immediate vicinity of Haarlem; Crocuses are grown elsewhere; while Narcissi, Fritillarias, Spiræa japonica, Anemones, and Ranunculi, though grown in considerable, nay, large quantities, are still quite subsidiary to Hyacinths and Tulips. At a short distance from the sea, protected from the severer blasts by low dunes or sand-hills, but still wrapped in an atmosphere laden with saline moisture, the Hyacinths and Tulips are grown in oblong rectangular beds, about 4 feet in width, each containing about 500 bulbs more or less. The soil is almost pure sand, with little or no "heart" in it; indeed, it seems only to serve as a means for diffusing cow manure, which is applied in enormous quantities. In the spring the land is dug, if such a term can be applied to the mere stirring which so light a soil demands; the manure is dug-in in profuse abundance, and Potatoes are planted. When these are removed in August, the land is deemed fit for the planting of the Hyacinth bulbs. The flowers are carefully cut ere they wither, in order that the bulbs may not be too much exhausted, and in order to prevent the attacks of mildew, which would endanger the foliage and proper ripening of the bulb. Hence one sees in the canals boatloads of cut Hyacinth spikes, the pathways and roads are strewn with the fragrant blossoms, rubbish heaps are made beautiful to the eye and pleasant to the nose by the mounds of parti-colored blooms. Children

come staggering along bearing huge bunches of the flowers, just as English children do with Cowslips or Primroses, and dainty young ladies trip along with their more select assortment, the final destination of which may be seen as one passes the windows of the residents. But the bulk of the "spoil," if we may so call it, is returned to the land. Fancy manuring with Hyacinth flowers! and yet this is what is done, just as English farmers plow in their green crops or their stubble. No doubt this is a profitable practice, but on the spot the visitor is apt to wonder why the perfume makers do not utilize the flowers for the manufacture of perfume as they do about Nice."

—♦♦♦—
SOLOMON'S SEAL — (*Polygonatum multiflorum*.)—The flowers of this plant are freely used in Europe for ornament. "The clumps are lifted from the open ground when they have made a growth of from 4 to 6 inches, planted in boxes, and brought into flower under glass. The boxes are used for decorating entrance halls, windows, &c. The flower stems are also much prized in a cut state for decorative purposes, their bold, arched appearance being highly effective in large vases."

—♦♦♦—
SWEET PEAS IN THE FLOWER MARKET. — The pure white-flowered forms and the Scarlet Invincible are the kinds liked best on account of their decided colors. They are the produce of seeds sown in November, a time when many sow their first crops of culinary Peas. As soon as they are above ground they are earthed up and staked. As the weather gets warmer the plants grow apace, and in June they yield a good supply of bloom, which is kept regularly cut three times a week, and the better this is attended to the longer the plants continue to grow and yield blossoms. For later supplies seeds are sown in succession during the spring months, and in dry seasons they are given copious supplies of water.—*The London Garden.*

TABLE BOUQUETS.

The London *Floral Magazine* objects to the stiffness of modern table bouquets, and longs for the nosegays of the olden time, which it says "Used to be made up of sweet-scented flowers and fragrant leafy spray, but unfortunately they are now so much things of the past that the sight of one would be quite a relief compared with the densely-packed, Mushroom-shaped bouquets of our own time. The old posy chiefly consisted of a handful of bright flowers and fresh green leaves, while one of its principal charms was the total absence of all the so-called modern art of the bouquetiste in its arrangement. No delicate blossoms from conservatory and greenhouse were there, but in their places we had Clove Pinks, Carnations, White Lilies, Sweet Williams, Scarlet Fuchsias, sprays of Honeysuckle and branches of fragrant Rosemary, Southernwood, and Sweet Briar, intermixed with Moss Rose buds and Cabbage Roses. These were arranged as they were cut, a rose bud here, and a spray of Mignonette or Jasmine there, each flower having a fair accompaniment of its own foliage, so that color was balanced and toned down by fresh greenery. In an arrangement such as this, individuality of form was well brought out, and a graceful combination was the result."

A BUG CONVENTION.—The Bugs of Europe, not the big, but little ones, have held a convention, so the London *Punch* states, to make arrangements for the reception of their friends, the Potato Bugs, from America, whose arrival is expected by every steamer. That journal gives an interesting report of the proceedings, and the speeches are quite up to the average of speeches on such occasions. The convention made an unanimous protest against the warm reception given to some members of the family, who had arrived unexpectedly and unannounced near Cologne, when the authorities cruelly saturated sawdust and straw with kerosene, which was set on fire, consuming the guests and their food in one grand holocaust.

WILD KALE.—On the Hampshire coast of England the wild Sea Kale is made to yield a revenue to the industrious cottagers. The plants are covered in the autumn with sea gravel, or *shingle*, as it is called, and in March the heads are from six to nine inches in length, fresh and succulent, and said to be far more delicate than that forced with manure in the usual way, which we can readily believe. The matter is attracting considerable attention on the sea coasts, where beach exists above high water mark.

FLORAL DECORATIONS.

The Royal Botanic Society of England is making constant efforts to encourage tasteful floral decoration. At an exhibition, on the 4th of July last, prizes amounting to over seven hundred dollars were awarded. Besides the usual liberal offers for dinner tables, bouquets, &c., prizes were offered for plants arranged in standing and in hanging baskets, and for the decoration of a balcony garden, and of a recess or fire-place in a room. Also, for cut flowers arranged in a hanging basket, for a pillar or column, as a festoon, and as a wreath for the wall of a ball-room, as a head-dress, and in a device of any kind suitable for personal adornment. Last, not least, prizes were offered for flowers which "only expand at night." And further, for fear this comprehensive list should not include everything, the judges were requested to award special prizes to any novel adaptation of natural plants, flowers, or leaves to decorative purposes, which they might consider worthy of notice.

AN HORTICULTURAL LIBEL.—A clergyman was recently convicted in an English court, of libeling his neighbor, another clergyman, by sowing Mustard and Cress in his garden, in the form of the words that constituted the libel. In commenting on this trial the *Gardener's Chronicle* remarks:—"Men usually libel either in hot blood, or without waiting for deliberation. In this case the libeler must have had plenty of time for consideration whilst marking out his lettered design, sowing his seed, and, not least, awaiting its full development. Nine hundred and ninety-nine men out of every thousand would have put the hoe through this production of spite long ere it was expanded into its full deformity. This man may have been a clergyman, but he was no Christian; he may have had a garden, but was no gardener. Our clerical gardeners—and they are not a few—are as a rule kindly, genial gentlemen, who would scorn to tarnish the reputations of their gardens by such wretched exhibitions of malice as this. Mustard and Cress may be slightly pungent, but it is neither sour nor bitter, and in being made the instrument of libel has itself been grievously libeled."

MOSS ROSES IN ORCHARDS.—For the London flower market Moss Roses are grown in large quantities. A correspondent of the *Garden* says:—"They are grown chiefly under orchard trees, and therefore the young buds are protected in spring from late frosts by the overhanging boughs."

THE ANEMONE JAPONICA ALBA.

This is one of the most desirable of our autumn flowers; indeed, we think of no white Perennial, blooming at this season of the year, half as good. The Anemone, during the summer, is a plain looking plant, with dark green foliage, one that would attract no attention; but in the latter part of summer flower stems begin to appear, and when some eighteen inches in height the white flowers commence to open; and if the nights are rather cool and dewy, the advancement of the plant to perfection is rapid. It soon bears from a score to a hundred of its



clear white flowers, and is an object of delight every lover of flowers, especially as it continues to improve until destroyed by frost. The London *Gardener's Chronicle* thus recommends the Anemone:

The great beauty and high decorative value of Anemone Japonica and its varieties, when in full bloom, are qualities so often enforced, that it seems but vain repetition to again allude to them. And yet they are plants that will grow almost anywhere, that the wonder is they are not more frequently met with in road-side gardens both in town and country. In old-fashioned gardens they flourish, and lend a lustre to the summer glory of the flowers therein; but in modern gardens one looks for them almost in vain. As we write, a handful of flowers of *A. japonica intermedia* and *alba* are before us; the former is valuable because of its depth of rosy-purple, the latter for their soft coloring and splendid size. What enormous heads of bloom well established plants will throw, and consequently what a value they possess for cutting from! The bunch of flowers just referred to have been in water for nearly a week, and kept in a rather close sitting-room, and yet there is no sign of decay or shadow of turning. The plants want to be put out into a rich free loam, and there let alone as far as disturbing their roots is concerned. A good mulching with manure during the summer works wonders; its effects are seen in the heightened color and increased dimensions of the beautiful blossoms.

WORMS IN POTS.—The French *Journal d'Agriculture Pratique* states that worms can always be got rid of by using for the plants water to which a tenth part of grated Horse Chestnut has been added. Under this treatment, it is said, the worms must either fly or die.

THE TULIP TREE (LIRODENDRON.)—Very little notice is taken by tree-planters of our beautiful native Tulip Tree. We see it far more frequently in Europe, and recently foreign journals have been calling special notice to its value as an ornamental tree. Once, when visiting a celebrated English park, a friend called our attention to a fine specimen in full flower, and inquired if we ever saw such a tree in America, and when we informed him that it was one of our forest trees which we used for fire-wood and lumber, thought we were indulging in "Yankee stories."

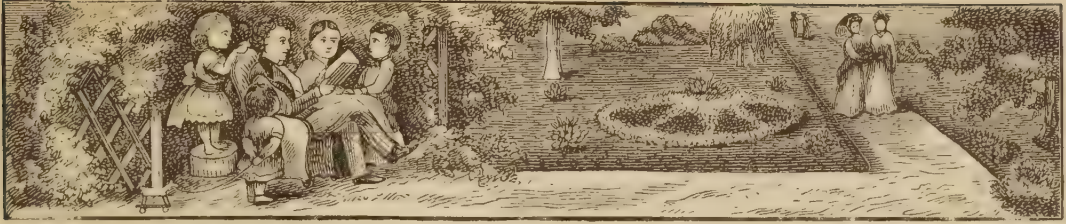
DOUBLE BLOSSOMED CHERRY.—What a magnificent ornamental tree the Double Blossomed Cherry is! In the forecourt gardens of many houses in the suburbs of London there are large trees, every branch of which is wreathed with densely-crowded lines of pendent blossoms. The beauty of the tree when in full bloom is best revealed when looked at beneath. Year after year shows no diminution of its marvellous floriferousness.—*Gardener's Chronicle.*

All of this is true, but what we need for our lawns and "forecourt gardens" is trees that on account of beauty of form and foliage are handsome all through the summer season. The Double Flowering Cherry is exceedingly beautiful ten days in the year, but at all other times is only a Cherry tree, and seemingly more fitted for the orchard than the lawn.

BIRD DESTROYERS.—A correspondent of one of the London journals saw five sparrows that had been shot by a gardener, hanging on a string over what should have been a row of peas. They had been shot for pecking off the young peas, while they were really catching the Pea Weevils, the real culprits. This, the writer thinks, something like hanging up a lot of policemen by the neck in a neighborhood frequented by burglars.

EXHIBITIONS OF ANNUALS.—The Messrs. CARTER & Co., of London, and SUTTON's, of Reading, made last summer exhibitions of Annuals, about which the English horticultural press were quite enthusiastic. The show of the former was made at the Garden of the Royal Botanic Society, Regent's Park, and the latter at the meeting of the Prince Consort's Royal Association, Windsor.

TREE PLANTING IN SWITZERLAND.—It is the custom in parts of Switzerland to plant a tree on family holidays, such as a marriage, &c., the friends of the family usually furnishing and planting the tree. The work is often accompanied with a good deal of parade, the relatives joining in procession. Music, and congratulatory speeches make a part of the performance.



PLEASANT GOSSIP.

OUR PURPOSE.

Those who have read our publications need not that we should inform them of our earnest purpose. To our large list of new acquaintances it may not be amiss to state that our desire is to create a taste for the beautiful in gardening, and a true love of flowers among the people. God has scattered beauty all over the world with a generous hand. Flowers abound on the mountain top, in the shady dell by the river's bank and even in the ugly swamp. Flowers are as free as air, and about as necessary to a happy life. For many years we have endeavored to teach the people to love flowers, and how to gratify this new-born love. That we have not labored in vain, we most sincerely believe. There were plenty of good florists and cultivators of flowers and horticultural writers before we planted a seed or admired a flower, or wrote a line; yet we thought that the taste for flowers was making too little progress, that the writings of the day were not always adapted to the wants of the people, and, perhaps, with some presumption, believed that we could say a good many simple things that would at once interest and instruct. So we commenced writing and publishing, and importing and growing flowers and seeds, first to give away, for we made presents of hundreds of dollars worth, and wrote scores of articles on flower culture before we ever received a penny for either. It is a pleasure to know that our labors are appreciated by the people and the press, and especially gratifying is the fact that we have not labored for nought; for in no country in the world is the love and culture of flowers making such wonderful progress as in our own favored land. New gardens, well-kept lawns, pleasant homes, are springing up everywhere. In our journeying we view them with delight mingled with surprise. Those who are not called upon to travel, know but little of the general and rapid improvement. But what they see in their own place and neighborhood is but a sample of what may be observed from Maine to California.

PETUNIAS FOR WINTER FLOWERS.

Mrs. DECKER, of Bay Co., Mich., is pleased with the Petunia as a Winter Plant, and says,—“Plant a red and a white one in the same box, and interlace their branches. They make a nice show. I had some last winter, and they filled the entire window. The box stood on the floor, and they grew to the upper wall, and then turned off side-ways. They were about nine feet long, and one mass of flowers next to the window. Many persons expressed the opinion that they had never before seen such a pretty show of flowers in a window. In the Spring they were removed, and now stand out by the house, and have been in bloom all summer. It is now fourteen months since they began to flower. All they want is food and water and something to hold them up.”

S. M. WILSON, of Center Sandwich, N. H., writes:—“Last Spring I sent for a paper of Petunia hybrida, choicest mixed seed, little thinking what a rich treat was in store for me. I sowed them in a pot, and the result was a window full of the most beautiful blossoms, twenty-one different varieties. They were a constant source of delight to us, and the wonder and admiration of all our friends. If there are any of your lady readers who have not tried the Single Petunia for winter blooming, I hope they may be induced to give it a trial. I am confident their efforts will be repaid by this free bloomer. Nothing can give so much pleasure in winter.”

PORTULACA AT THE SOUTH. — We supposed that the Portulaca would bear almost any imaginable amount of heat, but a friend of Cummings, Ga., writes that her beds were splendid, this season, and attributes her success to the fact that the plants were “sheltered from the burning rays of the midday sun. Fully exposed they do not do as well either for quantity or quality of bloom, or remain open as long, for exposed they close up about noon, while shaded they are open from early morning until sun-down.”

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

We are glad that the people and Government are seriously talking about reform in our civil service. The Government should select men to do its work for their capacity, and continue them in its service when they find capacity combined with faithfulness. To elect a man as Postmaster, without one qualification for the office, except the ability to draw his pay, merely because he is a noisy, empty-headed ward or town politician, is an outrage on the people. To appoint one merely because he has not industry and brains enough to earn a living in any other way, is almost as bad. To turn out of office a good, faithful public servant, who understands the business and does it well, to find a place for one of the above classes, is a crime. No man can be expected to devote time sufficient to learn thoroughly the workings of his office, and become master of the situation, when he knows, no matter how competent or faithful he may be, at the first change of administration he will be discharged, even if he succeeds in maintaining his place against the machinations of the hungry office-seekers of his own party. Let a man understand that as long as he proves entirely competent and faithful his position is secure, and he will have a powerful motive to prepare himself, by study and observation, to do his work better than any other person could do it. We speak of Post-offices because we have to deal largely with this Department, and know something of their workings. We have known the Government afraid to remove a Postmaster because of his political influence in the city or county, and the Postmaster afraid to remove a clerk whose integrity was suspected because of his supposed political influence at the ward caucus or the polls, or among the Irish or German voters. Such a state of things has disgraced our country and outraged decency long enough.

NEW ZEALAND.—New Zealand is a long way off, and yet from a knowledge of the requirements of plants, and the skill which experience brings as to the best modes of packing, we send plants to this and more distant countries, and with fair success. A gentleman of Wanganui, New Zealand, in acknowledging the reception of packages of plants in pretty good condition, writes:—"The Auratum Lily was all in pieces, but I find this is not strange, as they will not bear a long voyage. A gentleman here had a large number from England, but not one was good when the case was opened. The two large Begonias had new shoots from an inch to an inch and a half long, and the small one a shoot about half an inch long."

LILY BULB.

MR. VICK:—My friends in California and Oregon sent me some Lily bulbs, that I have grown for two years. I have one that bears a white flower that becomes pinkish before it fades, and I think from your description of Lilies that it must be the Washington, but I have another that bears a yellowish flower, and I cannot learn the name. The flowers are all gone, or I would send you one. I, however, forward a bulb; perhaps you can tell from this. You will see it has a curious habit, and grows from one side, forming quite a long bulb, or rather a string of bulbs. — FLORA, Lake Co., O.

The Lily bulb received with the above is *Humboldtii*, and is in appearance much like that of Washingtonianum, but the scales are thicker and broader. It is one of the best and hardiest of the California Lilies, and if it would



HUMBOLDTII LILY BULB.

grow as freely as the Lancifolium varieties, would soon become exceedingly popular. We saw it in California, dug its roots, and have cultivated it here for a good many years. Unfortunately it is unreliable in our climate. The sun seems to injure the leaves about the season for flowering, causing them to turn brown, which of course affects both flowers and bulbs. We have been growing them in partial shade among shrubbery, and with fair success.

TREATMENT OF SHRIVELED LILY BULBS.—An inquirer, of Michigan, received Lily bulbs in the spring, from a friend, and because they appeared dry and shriveled, placed them in water for a little while and then planted them, keeping the earth well watered, in hopes that they would recover. This was all wrong, and as might have been expected, resulted in the rotting of the bulbs. When Lily bulbs are received in the condition above described, surround them with moss very slightly dampened, or, place them in sand that is not wet, but merely damp. In this way they will recover better and quicker than in any other way we are acquainted with. If a cast-away sailor is discovered on a wreck at sea, famished and starving, food and water must be given at first carefully and in small quantities, or the result may be fatal.

CHINESE YAM.

Last season the *Chinese Yam* was advertised and recommended in some of the papers. I tried to obtain some and failed, and now, before trying again, I would like to know what I lost by the failure, or what I would be likely to gain by success another year. Is it a Sweet Potato, like I understand the Southern Yams to be?—ALPHA.

The Chinese Yam is not like the Sweet Potato. It is perfectly hardy, and will endure our severest winters without injury, and several years are required to grow a large tuber. The vine is pretty, and makes a rather rapid growth, having somewhat the appearance of the Madeira Vine, and is therefore of some account for ornamental purposes. The tuber is edible, but not sweet. This is our recollection of the plant as we knew and cultivated it a good many years ago. We have not known much about it lately. The tubers grow long and deep, and smallest at the top, so that they are difficult to dig. This plant, the true name of which is *Dioscorea batatas*, was introduced into America and England more than twenty years ago, and it was declared by some that it would entirely supercede the potato, but it has found little favor in either country. It is extensively grown and used for food in China and Japan. Our engraving was taken from a tuber, and shows the usual form.



BETTER THAN GOOD.—The most liberal gospel rule requires people to love their neighbors as themselves. Our Postal Department does a good deal better than that—it loves foreigners that have no share in paying the expenses or bearing the burdens of our government, four times better than its own people;—for foreigners pay FOUR CENTS a pound for carrying seeds through the United States' mails, and Americans SIXTEEN CENTS. Hurrah for the wisdom and patriotism of American legislators!

BEST CLIMBERS.—I want the very best Climber to cover a porch—one that will grow quick, give a good shade, with leaves of a pleasant green. Care nothing for flowers. I also desire the best Climber for the house in winter, to decorate a large window—plant to be grown in a pot. One that will bear dust and heat.—ALLIE, Columbus, Ohio.

The very best Climber to meet the wants of ALLIE for out-door culture is the *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*, (Virginia Creeper.) It has no equal in this country. For the house nothing will bear such bad treatment or look as well as the English Ivy.

SWEET ALYSSUM.

A. H. KEPLEY, of Effingham, Ill., grew a Sweet Alyssum plant in the house last winter, in a hanging basket that held not less than two quarts of earth, and it was such a beautiful



object, so large and fragrant, and attracted so much attention, that photographs were taken of the plant, and from one of them our engraving was made. Young plants can be taken from the garden and potted any time during the autumn, or may be grown from seed at any time in the house.

CALADIUM.—Dear Sir:—I see in your GUIDE that you say the *Caladium esculentum* leaves are “often more than a foot in length and nearly as broad.” I have one from last year's bulb that has three leaves which measure, two of them 36x26 inches, and one (the last formed) 37x26½ inches. It makes a new leaf about every three weeks, and so far the last is always the largest.—MRS. J. W. A., Greensboro, N. H.

GIANT ONIONS.—WARREN C. HURSH, of Sussex Co., New Jersey, wrote, Aug. 20th:—“I have just pulled my Onions, and they beat anything in this vicinity. I have some of the Giant Roccas, and they are a show—as large as a tea-saucer.”

VERBENA NOT HARDY.—The lady of Le Fox, Ill., who inquires as to the hardiness of Verbenas, will not succeed in saving plants over the winter in the garden. Our native Verbena Montana is quite hardy.

GARDEN ON THE HOUSE TOP.

Many of our readers, no doubt, have had to meet and conquer many difficulties, but we doubt if any have had a more novel experience than ISAAC D. BLAUVELT, of Patterson, New Jersey, who writes:—

“My garden is on the roof of my blacksmith shop, two stories high, so you will see I have but little room, and labor under some disadvantages. Still I had some success. My Balsams were superb, and every plant that bloomed was a beauty. The Anemones were the first to put on their beautiful dress. Others followed soon, like the Zinnias, Verbenas, Petunias, Portulacas, Pansies, Ten-Weeks Stocks, Enocheras, Asters and Antirrhinums. The greatest surprise was on the morning of the fifth of August, when a *Datura* plant (that had been laughed at because of its resemblance to the *Stramonium*,) showed what a plant that behaved well might do by exhibiting forty pure white flowers, with their edges delicately tinged with lavender, flowers trumpet shaped, from seven to eight and a half inches long, and from four and a half to five and a half inches in diameter; every flower was a wonder. My garden on the roof was admired by hundreds of people, it being in view from two streets. With us the summer was one long drought, and most of our gardens in the city were quite parched, but ours showed no signs of suffering, unless neglected. If any lovers of flowers, without a garden, have a house with a flat roof, they can grow enough flowers to satisfy any reasonable demand. The way I managed was to place boxes around the edges of the roof, put in the bottom three or four inches of fresh horse manure, no litter, then fill the boxes with good soil mixed with well rotted manure, and transplant from my hot-bed after the boxes had stood three or four days. I also grew all the Lettuce and Radishes our family used, in a box on the same roof. Of course, much water is needed.”

SUCCESS WITH HYACINTHS AND LILIES.—It is not often people say a good word for Hyacinths after they have been grown in our gardens several years, but STEPHEN GREEN, of Amesbury, Mass., writes as follows:—“I had some of your Hyacinths about four years ago; they have increased wonderfully. They were perfectly splendid, having from four to fourteen spikes of blossoms to a clump. My *Lilium Washingtonianum* blossomed splendid last year, and also the *Chalcedonicum*.”

ITALIAN ONIONS IN LOUISIANA.—JAS. M. THOMPSON, of Covington, Louisiana, wrote, August 2d:—“Last winter was the severest we have ever known in this place. In consequence thereof the Italian Onion seed was not transplanted until February, and were gathered early in May. We generally plant seed in September, and transplant in November, so they did not have more than half the usual time to grow in, yet they made the largest and most perfect Onions I ever saw.”

DOUBLE BLACK PANSY.—A friend, of Milford Center, Ohio, has found a double Black Pansy, from seed of King of the Blacks.

TOMATOES IN ALABAMA.

The only way to keep up the quality of any vegetable and prevent degeneration, is to save seed from the earliest and best specimens. This is particularly the case with Tomatoes. As the *Hathaway*, we believed, and still think, the best Tomato in the world, we have taken particular care to save seed only from the very choicest specimens, and the result has been a great and constant improvement, particularly in earliness. If it is not now, we think it will soon become the earliest good Tomato grown. The Hubbard is a very early variety; indeed, we have thought it the earliest of all, but the *Hathaway* will soon be its equal in this respect, while it excels it in all other good qualities. Dr. R. T. GOTT, of Eutaw, Alabama, thus writes of these two varieties, on July 16, 1877:

“I must tell you about my Tomato crop. I planted two kinds, the Hubbard and the *Hathaway*; planted about the middle of January, both at the same time, in the same soil and both received the same attention. On the 10th day of June I picked my first Tomato, not from the Hubbard, as I expected, but from the *Hathaway*; picked my first Hubbard the 15th of June, five days later. July 1st I picked one bushel of *Hathaway* from fifty vines. The Hubbard, I think, not worth cultivating in this climate, they are not good, and a large proportion of them rot before they mature. The *Hathaway*, I think, has no equal—the fruit is smooth, round as an orange, and about as large, solid, very few seeds, and by far the most productive Tomato I ever saw. They are delicious.”

BLUE PETER PEAS.—The Blue Peter is the best of the Dwarf Peas. It is very short, quite as low as the old Tom Thumb, and of far better quality, and wonderfully productive. A lady of Preemption, Ill., writes:—“The Blue Peter Pea is just the thing. I never saw Pea vines yield such enormous quantities of pods, filled with large Peas.” A friend from Lima, says:—“The Blue Peter comes up pods first, I almost think, for the first I saw of them was a mass of pods.”

SUCCESS WITH CARNATIONS.—MR. WIRES, of St. Lawrence, grew twenty-three beautiful double Carnations from one paper of seed, and was quite pleased with the result, as he had good reason to be, and wishes to know if seeds saved from these flowers will produce plants with double flowers. A portion only will be double—perhaps one-half.

SELF SOWN ABRONIAS.—Some time since we published a statement from a gentleman, that his garden abounded with self grown Abronias. Now, a lady from Esperance, N. Y., writes:—“That gentleman with the self grown Abronias must not feel very much elated, because we have had the same results.”

LONDON PRIDE.

In No. 3 of the FLORAL GUIDE of last year, in answer to a correspondent of St. Clair Co., Ill., we described what has always been known to us as London Pride, *Saxifraga umbrosa*.



We did not know that any other plant was commonly recognized by that name. In England, we think we can safely say, this, and this only, is the London Pride of the gardens. Since our article was published, however, we have received a score of speci-

mens of London Pride from half-a-dozen different States, and in every case, but one, on examination we found the flowers sent in under this name to be *Lychnis Chalcedonica*. From Bordentown, N. J., received seeds we could not recognize, but which we will sow and ascertain the true name. We give engravings of both the *Saxifraga* and *Lychnis*. The former, we think, would not be hardy at the North.



THE HORTICULTURAL BACHELERS.

We have got into a good deal of trouble, very innocently, by publishing a communication from a California Bachelor, accompanied by a few remarks, which we designed to be more pleasant than precise. The Bachelors, however, have taken serious exceptions, and we fear they are, as a class, not over-burdened with the milk of human kindness, though we have known very fine *single* specimens. Some, we fear, have only heard the story second-handed, and therefore consider our offence far more serious than it really is. For the purpose, therefore, of pouring oil on these troubled tempers, we give the whole story just as published, and if, after reading the matter coolly, our friends think we ought to take back anything, or apologize, we are ready to do any amount of that kind of work, in reason. In the first place, a Bachelor friend in Los Angeles, California, after giving a very interesting description of his gardening, made the remarks below, to which, it will be seen, we added a word or two:

"I am a bachelor, and housework takes up most of my spare time. Cooking, and making beds, washing dishes, and working among my trees and potatoes keeps me busy enough." We visited many of these old bachelor's cabins when in California, and from all such deliver us.

They are almost as bad as some of the cabins in the "Green Isle," where the pig has the run of the parlor. The idea of a man washing dishes, after a week's use, and wiping them on his coat sleeve! If our friend has not a good housekeeper when we next hear from him, we shall set him down as an incurable lunatic.

In response to this we received, among a score of communications, the following from a Bachelor of Elvaston, Illinois, which we published:

MR. JAMES VICK:—I hope your many readers and lovers of flowers, of which I claim to be one, will not take all bachelors to be like Mr. C., of Los Angeles, California, who has no order in the house, no love for the fragrant flower". I have been keeping Bach for seven years, turning over fifty acres of ground every year, and tending it all myself, and still have plenty of time to keep my lawn well trimmed, and to raise hundreds of flowers. Many visitors come for miles to get a look at these beautiful objects that our Creator has given us. With all this, I could enjoy much more if I had a companion who loved the flowers.

Our readers will please see that we did not charge our Los Angeles friend with want of order, etc., though a bachelor with order in the house would be as rare a show as a White Blackbird. We only spoke of some things we had seen.

It was not to be supposed that the ladies would keep quiet all through the excitement, nor would such a state of things be desirable. The following we publish as a sample letter:

MR. VICK:—I have been reading a "Bachelor's Exceptions" to what you said about bachelors' cabins. He tells about his love for flowers, but does not state how his house looks. Now, I think if he has the care of the house, that he cannot have time to keep it looking very well; but I think it must be that he has a mother, sister, or some one else to keep house for him and keep things in order, for we have several bachelors in this vicinity, and I agree with you, they are not good housekeepers. Then, he says he should enjoy more if he had a companion that loved flowers. Why does he not fly round and get one? Has he not courage enough, or has he tried and become discouraged? Does he think that, as one of the Lords of Creation, he cannot find any one good enough? If he would enjoy it, would the companion also enjoy it? or, is he selfish enough to wish for some one to help him to enjoy life without regard to her comfort or pleasure?—G. N., *New Hampshire*.

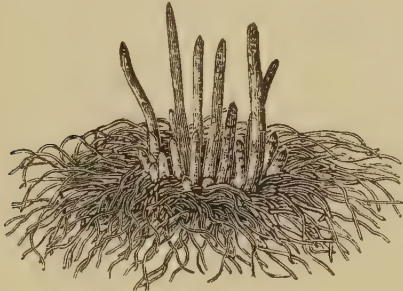
All these inquiries we are unable to answer, from want of sufficient knowledge on the subject, and so we let the matter rest.

GOVERNMENT SEED SHOP.—A gentleman, of Tipton, Ind., in some remarks on the Government Seed Shop, suggests the following:—"My plan is, that if the Congressmen wish to get the undying love of their constituents in the matter of seed distribution, let them send the money value (as bought, not real,) to their friends, and then the humble citizen can buy a genuine article. It will save votes for the aspiring politician, and may land him in the Senate or Presidential chair."

MAKING ASPARAGUS BEDS.

MR. VICK :—Will you please inform your numerous readers of the proper method to make an Asparagus bed, and the way to treat the same until the Asparagus is ready for use. I think many more would grow it if there was a more general understanding of the method of raising this healthful vegetable. — Mrs. S. H. HINDER, *Victor, Iowa*

The quickest way to obtain Asparagus is to purchase plants, because by doing so the beds are fit for cutting one or two years earlier than would be the case were they started from seeds. To commence with the beginning, however, obtain seed as early as possible in the spring, and sow in wide drills, say five inches in width, and fifteen inches apart, about as peas are sown. Keep the soil mellow and the weeds destroyed, and in the autumn, if the soil is good, you will have one-year old plants to transplant. One-year old plants are pretty small, and many prefer to keep them in the seed-bed until two years of age. An ounce of seed is sufficient for a drill about twenty-five feet in length. In making a bed for the plants select a good, mellow soil, if possible, and make it deep and rich. An Asparagus bed once made will keep in good condition for half a century, so the work should be well done. The beds must be narrow, so as to permit of cutting to the center without stepping upon them. Set the plants not less



ASPARAGUS PLANT.

than twelve inches apart in the clear, spreading the roots out naturally, and not crowding them into a hole, and so deep that the crown or top of the plant will be about three inches below the surface. In removing the weeds have care not to injure the young shoots, and it is best to do this by hand as much as possible. Salt is a good manure for Asparagus, and may be used with such freedom as to keep the weeds pretty well subdued without much further trouble. If strong two-year-old plants are set, a little may be cut the second year. The part used is the young shoots which commence to appear early in the spring, and they should be cut when five or six inches in height, and when the head is close and firm. Take them from a little below the surface, with a sloping cut. It is not best to continue cutting late in the season unless

the shoots are very strong. After the season is over, allow the tops to grow and bear flowers and seeds. When ripe cut them close to the ground, cover the beds with a few inches of manure, and upon this throw the old tops. Early in the spring, remove the coarsest of the manure with a coarse rake or fork, and the Asparagus bed is ready for its spring work. The engraving shows a plant as it appears soon after commencement of growth in the spring. Often, when planted, the young shoots will have made a little growth, but this is no injury.

NO FAILURE WITH SEEDS.

Some kinds of seeds have great vitality, and germinate freely, while others are made to grow only under very favorable circumstances. Those, therefore, who have neither experience nor skill can hardly hope to succeed with the more difficult class. Sometimes, through a combination of favorable circumstances, such as fine and moist weather, success is assured even with the most delicate seed and the most careless culture; but this is not to be expected. It is natural to blame everybody and everything as the cause of trouble when it comes; the seed and the weather and the insects are all at fault. I planted carefully, and did everything just as good as any one could do. I am right, if all the rest of the world are wrong. Such a state of feeling must be very comforting, we suppose, if we could really and earnestly and persistently believe it; but a glimmer of sense occasionally shines through this cloud of ignorance and conceit, that causes a good deal of doubt and discomfort, as the question arises whether we are a good deal wiser or considerable more foolish than our neighbors. It is only a very few that possess unbounded and uninterrupted confidence in self. The following extract of a letter from a gentleman in Baldwin, Penn., illustrates this subject, and shows the necessity of a little knowledge in the treatment of seeds:

Some of my flower seeds have produced plants which are already bursting into bloom. All came up nicely, but I *have* no failures. It is pretty bad seed that won't come up for me, anyhow. Last spring I supplied three of my neighbors with an assortment of flower seed. Now they report "that seed all bad, it wouldn't any of it come up." But I inform them that I have abundance of plants to give away, which were produced from seed out of the identical packages from which they were supplied. They think that very strange, but I don't.

COLORED PLATES. — We are now preparing for the early numbers of our MAGAZINE, Colored Plates of *Hollyhocks, Carnations, Dahlias* and *Gladioli*, painting from the flowers as they come into bloom.

JAPAN LILIES AND CORN.

MR. JAMES VICK:—*Dear Sir*:—For several years our Japan Lilies have been perfectly satisfactory, but last summer and this summer they have looked miserably, the leaves turning yellow, and the plants looking weakly. We know of no cause for this, as the Lilies have done so well for years, and we would like you to explain it, if possible, in your journal, which we find of much assistance in our gardening operations. Also, for three years, we have bought the Black Mexican Corn for seed, and each year it has come up almost white, just a black kernel here and there. Once it came up true to seed. If you can tell us the reason we shall be greatly obliged.—G. A. CASSIDY, *New York City*.

About the Lilies we can say but little, because we know little. We do not know why it is that the Auratum sometimes fails, just as the buds are forming, and we are looking for its beautiful flowers. We do not know why, when we plant thousands of these bulbs, just imported from Japan, and all send up vigorous, healthy flowering stems, with every promise of a glorious future, that suddenly and unexpectedly, one half will show signs of disease and cast their leaves, while the other half, perhaps, are apparently perfectly healthy. On examining the bulbs they will be often found decayed, but sometimes, even under these circumstances, the bulbs will show no signs of injury. Our experience is that the Auratum Lily does best in partial shade, and should be planted among the thin shrubbery. This is where we grow our strongest plants. Its native home is among the mountains of Japan, where it is not exposed to a fierce summer sun.

Nothing will hybridize more readily than Corn. Each grain has a "silk" attached, and through this it is fertilized by the pollen. Thus each kernel is independent, and one may be perfectly pure, while its neighbor may be fertilized by the pollen of some variety growing in the vicinity. A variety of red corn growing on a farm will usually affect more or less every kind, and spotted ears will in a few years become quite common.

THE MASCULINE BRAIN.—A lady (L. P., of Green Brook, N. Y.,) is pleased with our FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN, and really it ought to be good, for we gave it a great deal of time and care; but for which our fair friend, it seems, is not willing to award us the entire credit. "I never saw such an amount of useful information combined with such perfect taste in every detail, even in an expensive work. I think you must have had the assistance of a lady in getting it up. A *masculine brain* could hardly be possessed of such delicacy." Of course, for ourselves, we care nothing, but is not this a reflection that concerns all the "lords of creation."

VERBENAS FROM SEED.

MR. VICK:—I send you some flowers of my Verbenas grown from seed, and hope they will reach you in good condition, because they are the finest I ever saw. One plant is as large as half a dozen such as I have obtained from cuttings. The flowers, too, I think, are more durable, opening, you will see, on the outside, while the buds occupy the center. I did not think I could grow verbenas from seed, as I had always bought them, and raising Verbenas seemed more like the work of a florist than of a lady amateur. I was, however, encouraged to try, because I had seen some very healthy plants grown by a friend whom I was visiting. I had a slight and simple hot-bed made, and when the plants came up I thought



they were weeds, and came near pulling them up, but did not. When other leaves appeared I was satisfied, and you may be sure I am now more than pleased. Did you ever tell the people that Verbenas grown from seed are almost all fragrant, while those grown from slips seldom are? This is a fact, I truly believe.—M. J. F., *Cook Co., Ill.*

The Verbenas, as grown from seed, are pretty truly described by our correspondent. We grow none from cuttings, except a few that may be particularly handsome, and these we propagate from cuttings a year or two for the purpose of securing as much of their seed as possible.

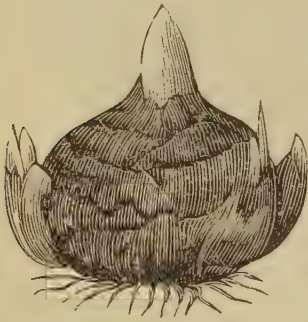
AUSTRALIA.—A letter from the editor of the *Sydney Rural Australian* expresses the belief that—"The late Exhibition, held in Sydney, in which the United States as well as Canada took so active a part, has created a desire on the part of our people to become more intimately acquainted with Americans and their productions, and encouraged a notion that important commercial relations are not only possible, but very probable."

ARTIFICIAL FLOWER BAROMETERS.—The French opticians, aided by the manufacturers of artificial flowers, make them of various kinds, so prepared that they change color with the change of the atmosphere. When the air is dry they are deep blue, and when the air is saturated with moisture they are pink, showing also the intermediate shades, according to the condition of the atmosphere. They are colored with a material mainly composed of chloride of cobalt.

HYACINTHS.

MR. VICK :—My Hyacinths have begun to grow, that is, show green leaves from the top of the bulb; but what am I to do with the young bulbs that appear on the sides? Will they ruin the flowers if I allow them to remain? or, will it ruin the bulb if I take them off? Some say the bulb will rot if I remove them, while others say they will spoil the flowers if they remain. Some bulbs I kept over last summer, I found when I came to plant them, had commenced to grow, and I could see the flower buds just peeping out from among the green leaves. I will send you one of them. Will they grow and flower like the others, and what is the cause of this singular growth?—AMATEUR, *Harrisburg, Pa.*

We give an engraving showing the little off-sets described by our correspondent. The little bulblets are almost independent of the parent,



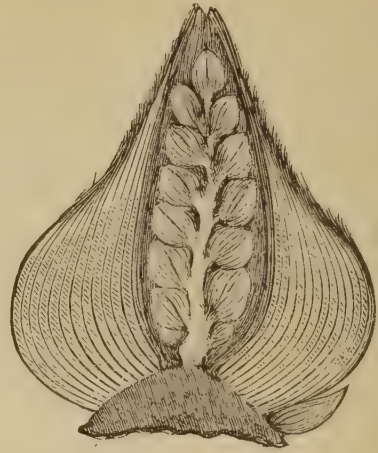
HYACINTH AND OFF-SETS.

and their growth do not injure the flowers of the main bulb, and sometimes after the leading spike is gone these bulblets will give little trusses of flowers that look very pretty, especially if the original spike is removed as soon as faded. The Hyacinths kept over by our correspondent, and showing the flower-buds at the top of the bulb, (see engraving below from the one sent us), was kept too warm late in the season, or what is the same, kept out of the ground too late, and has, therefore, started to make growth. Hyacinths, as the planting time approaches, must be kept as dormant as possible. To make the matter plain we will show a section of a Hyacinth bulb as it will appear at or near the close of planting time. Not



GROWTH WITHOUT ROOT.

only is the nutriment designed to sustain the flower gathered and safely stored in the bulb, but the flower stem and the miniature buds are formed, ready to start into growth the first favorable opportunity. If the bulb is kept at a low and even temperature it will remain nearly dormant, or, at least, make but little progress; but if kept in a warm, dry room—and our rooms are all dry for plants an unnatural, sickly growth—is made, the flower stem feeding entirely on the bulb, and if this is continued too long the whole is ruined, bulb and buds dry up together. If planted in earth and kept in a cool place, feeding roots are soon formed that furnish nutriment



SECTION OF HYACINTH.

to the growing plant as fast as required. When the Hyacinth is placed in water, roots are also formed in the same manner, though in that case the plant derives a portion of its nourishment from the bulb, and, as a consequence, it becomes weakened and does not bloom so well the second year.

FLOWER GROWING IN CALIFORNIA.

Every place almost has its advantages as well as its difficulties, and the cultivator must learn a good deal from his own experience and that of his neighbors. For this reason we like to give little sketches of experience, like the following from a friend in Colusa, California:

MR. VICK :—Your FLORAL GUIDE has just reached me, many thanks for it. I received seeds quite late, planted in boxes, and when the plants were large enough transplanted into rich prepared soil in the garden. Everything is growing beautifully. The Phlox, Zinnias, Portulacas, Convolvulus Major and Minor, are all blooming at their height. Every one says my garden is a success. For Asters and Balsams the heat is too severe; they cannot bear the severe sun. I have been experimenting on watering mornings before sunrise instead of night, and I find it very successful. You are, of course, acquainted with our hot, burning North winds at night; the plant and earth is hot, and by applying water it seems to scorch the little plants, and they die. By waiting until morning, everything is cool. All large plants are irrigated under ground, which I can assure you is very important here. I never allow water to be thrown on top of the ground, as it will crack and allow the hot air to penetrate down around the roots.—MRS. L. F. M.

PRETTY MEAN, BUT HUMAN.—A Clergyman's wife writes that she would be delighted to have our Magazine, and hopes to take it soon, "but our parishoners are all talking of 'hard-times,' and every other liability must be paid before the minister's pittance." We dare not tell the place, because it would make trouble; it was however, in the Queen's Dominions—but we have lots of similar cases, for human nature is about the same everywhere, and not much to boast of anywhere.

OUR MAGAZINE.—GOVERNMENT SEEDS.

JAMES VICK, ESQ.—I am just in receipt of No. 3 of your GUIDE, and am disappointed. In No. 2, you said you were thinking seriously of making the GUIDE a MONTHLY FLORAL MAGAZINE, but in No. 3 you don't mention the MONTHLY once. Have you abandoned the idea? Please don't. I think it is just what is needed, and you can consider me a subscriber for two copies just as long as you and I live. Your little quarterly GUIDE is very interesting, and I always read it carefully through, and I know you would give us a delightful MONTHLY. I would like to say a word about our "Congressional seeds." I have for two years been supplied with several packets of seeds, and have given them a fair test, and I most unequivocally say that nine out of ten packets of the seeds produced flowers of the commonest and most worthless sorts, and all were labelled "Imported from France." I think it is a stupendous humbug. One thing more. I have tried faithfully for several years to grow Auratums, but have failed in every instance: why, I can't tell. My Candidums and Lancifoliums do splendidly, but I can't get a single gold-banded flower. The bulbs perish before the flowers come; Humboldtii the same.—J. J. WADSWORTH, Erie, Pa., July 29, 1877.

At the issue of the third number of the GUIDE last year we had not determined to commence the publication of our MONTHLY this season, but a host of letters similar to the above decided our course. Our Erie friend is not only ready to talk, but to act also, and if all who have urged the publication of a MONTHLY will pursue the same course, its abundant success will be assured.

What a disgrace to the country to take the people's money these hard times, and send to Europe to purchase worthless seeds to give to a few political favorites or friends of Congressmen, and then charge seedsmen twenty per cent. duty for all foreign seeds they import. This folly is making us ridiculous in the eyes of all Europe. Only a few weeks ago a commercial traveler for a foreign seed house, on his way to Washington to obtain an order from the "Yankee Seed-shop," remarked to us that this thing was an arrant humbug, but he might as well get a share of the money as anybody. Here is a chance for President HAYES and Congressmen, to "reform" to some purpose. The following is a copy of a Petition we have presented to Congress for several years, but thus far without result. Let the people speak, and Congressmen must hear and heed:—

To the Forty-Fourth Congress:

The undersigned citizens of the United States would respectfully and very earnestly petition your Honorable Body to make no more appropriations of public money for the Distribution of Seeds through the Agricultural Bureau. It is an unnecessary waste of money, while it is quite beneath the dignity of a great nation to engage in the free distribution of common garden, flower and field seeds. The people are quite able and willing to purchase what seeds they may have occasion to use, and do not need or ask charity of Congress. We would humbly pray, however, that if Congress is designed for

a charitable institution, which we think it is not, it should not confine its labors to the distribution of a few seeds, but send the people food and clothing—any of the necessaries of life, while some of the luxuries would be by no means unacceptable.

We would also beg to call your attention to the injustice of making the millions of people who buy their own seeds pay for sending seeds free to a few thousands who happen to have friends in Washington.

We also call the attention of your Honorable Body to the injustice done to a very honorable and enterprising class of our citizens, who are engaged in the seed trade. They are compelled to pay the duties established by Congress on all seeds they import, and bear their share of the burdens and expenses of government, and yet this Government, through its Agricultural Bureau, comes into the market, not as a fair competitor, but with seeds *bought with the people's money, to give away*. Such a course is not pursued by the American Government towards *any other* class of its citizens, nor by any other government in the world toward *any* class of its people.

This peddling of common seeds, by the Government, we beg to suggest, brings upon us the ridicule of other countries, and we pray the present Congress to end it at once, and, as far as possible, forever.

The Auratum Lily sometimes acts in the manner described, and far too often, and so do most of the California varieties. And yet all succeed admirably sometimes. The same mail that brought us the above placed in our hands also several communications, relating wonderful success with the Auratum, one from Mrs. LYMAN, of Strongsville, Ohio, describing a flower "nine and a half inches across."

A RICH ASPARAGUS BED—CABBAGE CATERPILLAR.—A gentleman at Belmont, Nevada, has turned an old Corral, covered with hundreds of loads of compost, into an Asparagus bed, and inquires if plants will be likely to grow. They certainly will not starve, but there is such a thing as over-feeding plants as well as people. He has also the Cabbage worm, *Pieris rapæ*, and thinks it must have been obtained in the seed, for it would take a thousand years to travel from Rochester to Nevada. Does our Nevada friend think the yellow butterfly, seen in our fields, and often in swarms in moist places in the roads, is less a traveler than the Potato bug, which came so rapidly and uninvited from Colorado and Nevada, and has already taken a deck passage to Europe, where he met, in some cases, a much warmer reception, than General GRANT? The Belgian Government ordered a whole field of Potatoes, where our Western bug was quietly getting a good meal, to be covered with straw that had previously been moistened with kerosene, and set on fire. The Cabbage worm is a native of Europe, and landed first on this continent in Quebec, we believe, some fourteen years ago, and has seemed to make itself at home everywhere, and a great deal more free than welcome.

HOLLY BERRIES.

Those of our readers who were subscribers to the *FLORAL GUIDE* of last year will remember, perhaps, that in the second number, we spoke of the scarcity of Holly berries in England for the Christmas of 1876, and the various theories as to its cause, the most foolish of all being the opinion of Mr. DARWIN that the deficiency was caused by the scarcity of honey bees. To this we replied as follows: "The simple truth is that the plants bore so abundantly last year that a large crop was not to be expected. Two very large crops of fruits or blossoms in succession is not frequent. Then the frosts and snows of spring destroyed the blossoms that would have yielded a partial crop under favorable circumstances. Next year, with a favorable spring, we think our English friends will rejoice in a good crop of Christmas berries whether the bees are scarce or plenty." The last number of the *Gardener's Chronicle* received, says: "If we do not have an abundantly berried Holly crop next Christmas to decorate and cheer that festive season, it will not be because of the present deficiency of flowers. The bloom everywhere in the Holly is simply marvellous, and as frost must be now out of the question, failure to the berry can scarcely be looked for."

QUITE UNCERTAIN.

Although we make sacrifice of a good deal of leisure and pleasure, perhaps, in publishing a monthly, we expect to derive as much satisfaction from the change as anybody, because we love the work, and, as our readers know, never could get down to making a dry, business-like Catalogue, and never wanted to. This our friends of the press understand, and sometimes allude to, in a way something like the following from the *American Agriculturist*:—

JAMES VICK, Rochester, N. Y., is a most uncertain man. No one knows what he will do next. He began with catalogues unlike those of any one else, and now he comes with a catalogue in the shape of a quarterly "Floral Guide," and more than this, he has a "Flower and Vegetable Garden." Both works are elegant, useful, and full of interesting matter, including not a little of VICK. He is so versatile that he sometimes "drops into poetry," pitches into Congress, writes notes of travel, and instructs his readers, and we trust, makes money.

FREE SPECIMEN COPIES.—Our friends who wish copies of the first number of the *MAGAZINE*, to use as specimens with their neighbors, need not send any money. If any number becomes soiled in its missionary tours among the neighboring families, we will gladly send another copy free.

THROUGH THE MAILS FOR NOTHING.

By the Postal arrangements with Canada we carry all Canada merchandize through our mails free, the Canadian Government receiving the pay; and doing the same for us. This seems fair, but Canada charges only FOUR CENTS a pound postage, and its people can ship mailable goods very cheap. In the United States we have to pay sixteen cents a pound, and consequently cannot send mailable goods to Canada, so the American Government carries Canada mail matter for nothing, and the high price of U. S. postage prevents the receipt of anything in return. The only way American nurserymen and seedsmen can do any mail trade with Canada is to ship a number of packages together by Express to some point in Canada, and then re-mail them, taking advantage of cheap Canada postage. So we are really carrying Canada merchandize for nothing, Canada getting the postage of both countries. The wisdom of SOLOMON was as nothing compared to that of the wise men at Washington, who have charge of our Postal matters. Perhaps sometime they will see the importance of giving us cheap postage on merchandize, say eight cents a pound.

PERENNIALS FROM SEED.

I have not had much success in growing Perennials from seed. They do not grow as well as Annuals, though I treat them the same. What can be the cause? —A. M. S.

Perennials flower early in the summer, long before we obtain any flowers from the Annuals, and nature designed that the seeds should drop to the ground, grow, and make good plants before winter. They will then flower the next summer. Annuals flower late, and the seeds remain on the ground without germination until the warm weather of spring, that is in a northern climate. In some climates there is no rest for vegetation, except, perhaps, in the hottest summer months. The seeds of most Perennials are, therefore, better planted as soon as ripe, while the Annuals lose no vitality by being kept until spring, and some will receive no injury if preserved for many years. Seedsmen understand how to preserve seeds, so that most varieties of Perennials will grow in the spring, but there are a few, like the Perennial Phlox, that are more than a match for their ingenuity.

FALL PLANTING OF BULBS.—"How late can I plant Autumn Bulbs?" asks a correspondent. Just as late as you can get sound bulbs and the frost will allow you to put them in the ground. It is not, however, best to wait for the last chance.

BEST ANNUALS.

Last season, for the first time since childhood, I attempted the cultivation of flowers, and with fair success, though of twenty kinds some six or eight afforded more satisfaction than the other dozen. Now, I suppose it is all right for seedsmen to advertise so many kinds, and perhaps they are good in some places, but if you would tell beginners what they ought to commence with—say the best half-dozen annuals,—I think your readers would be saved from a great deal of disappointment.—BEGINNER.

We have always advised our readers to commence with a few popular and hardy flowers, so as to secure from the first encouraging success. If "BEGINNER," continues the culture of flowers, we have no doubt, however, that some of those dozen that did not give much pleasure last season will become especial favorites. We hardly know what to recommend for six best Annuals; or, rather, we shall have to omit some that we would like to include in every list. The *Phlox* we must have, because it gives such a grand show of color all the season from June to frost. Ten cents worth of *Striped Petunia* seed will cover more space than ten dollars worth of Bedding Plants, and be about as handsome and endure as long,—so we must have the *Petunia*. The *Double Portulaca* will make a more brilliant show of color during the sunny hours of the day than any flower in the world—no carpet or even pattern of silk or satin is half so gorgeous,—so that must make the third. The *Pansy* we cannot omit, for what flower is so interesting in the early spring and autumn, and even in the mild days of mid-winter will sometimes, even at the North, furnish us with a button-hole-bouquet. Then there is the *Aster*, that equals the *Dahlia* for an autumn flower. Wonderful has been the improvement in this popular flower. Now we have only one more to select, and no *Verbenas*, that everybody wants—no *Sweet Peas*, and next to *Mignonette* the sweetest flower that grows—and no *Mignonette*, either, and no *Dianthus*,—and no *Morning Glory*,—and no *Ten-Weeks-Stock*,—so our readers had better select the last one for themselves, for we can't find it in our heart to exclude so many good things from our list of six, and perhaps make hard feelings among our favorite flowers. We speak of all that bloom the first season as Annuals.

REPORTS FROM STATES.—From a lady we have received a very interesting report on the Flowers of South Carolina, which we will publish in our next issue. Such facts from other States would be interesting and valuable. Our country is so extended that we are anxious to learn what succeeds and what fails in all sections.

STRANGE NOTIONS.

It is strange how many foolish notions are in circulation regarding the culture of flowers, and the worst of the matter is that the press is constantly giving circulation to the most absurd nonsense. The following is from a lady in Syracuse:—

MR. VICK:—*Sir*:—Will you answer the following through your MAGAZINE? 1. I have heard that picking Tulip flowers will interfere with the future blossoming. Is this so, and does it affect more than one year? If it is so, what is the reason? Is it the case with any other bulbous plants,—Lilies, *Gladiolus*, or *Hyacinths*, or plants of any other kind? 2. In an article on the *Gladiolus*, I have seen this direction with regard to the bulblets that come off—to keep them over one year, planting them the next spring but one. Is this correct, and why is it? 3. What treatment is necessary for *Double Hollyhocks* to keep them double and true to color? 4. Should *Amaryllis* bulbs be grown standing on the surface of the earth, or buried in it?—F. A. C.

1. The whole story is without one grain of truth. Cutting the flowers is of advantage, rather than injury to the newly-formed bulbs.

2. The second is about the same. We have often heard and read the statement, but plant bulblets every spring. They grow very slowly, and a good flowering bulb is obtained about as early from seed. The bulblets, however, produce the kinds from which they were taken, which seeds, of course, do not.

3. *Hollyhocks* are biennials, or imperfect perennials, and with ordinary treatment only live two or three years at most. One reason of early decay is abundant blooming, which exhausts the plant. If one half or more of the flowering stems are removed as soon as they begin to form, the plant may be kept in health and vigor a long time. The *Hollyhock* has no tendency to become single or change its color, that we are aware of. If new plants come up from dropped seed they may be single, but the original plants will maintain their true character.

4. The *Amaryllis* should be planted so that the earth will about cover the neck of the bulb.

A BENEVOLENT GOVERNMENT.—For benevolence, and freedom from all selfishness, the American Government must take the premium. As the boys say, "It will do to bet on." We have heard of disinterested benevolence, but who has ever heard of a benevolence like that shown by our wise American Government, in charging AMERICAN CITIZENS SIXTEEN CENTS A POUND for all merchandise sent through the American mails, while Canadians send the same things through our mails for FOUR CENTS A POUND! and the Canadian Government keeps the four cents!!

CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES.

Will you please tell us what varieties of Cucumbers are used for pickles,—not such large ones as we usually see in America, but the little slender ones such as we find in English and French pickles, imported in glass jars, and called Gherkins. I have bought seeds of Gherkins, but they do not grow Cucumbers, only little prickly things, almost round. Please enlighten your readers on the subject.—E. L. W.

The true Gherkin is not a Cucumber, but is a "little prickly thing" that some people like for pickles, the vine having a leaf something like that of the Water Melon. What is commonly called Gherkins are only very young Cucumbers, and growers of pickles do not always agree as to the best variety for this purpose, some preferring Long Green, others



Early Cluster, and still others Early Frame. We have imported every foreign variety recommended for this purpose, in hopes of finding some one that would not grow large, even when mature, but have found none of this character, and nothing much better than our common American sorts. Our last trial was a variety from France, called the *Small Pickling* or *Gherkin Cucumber*, sent us with the accompanying engraving, which is a true representation of the young fruit, but when they became older were short and thick, and not much different from the Early Frame. The only way is to pick the fruit when just the size and form you desire, and to do this it will be necessary to go over the vines every day or so. When the fruit is gathered small, the vines will bear an immense quantity. One large Cucumber, full of seed, will tax the strength of the vine more than a dozen small ones, such as are desirable for pickles.

OUR AUTUMN.—The most delightful weather in the world is the American autumn weather, just as it becomes cool enough for long tramps in the woods and fields, and the leaves become tinted with gold and crimson, and the field nuts ripen and fall. Gather the beautiful leaves and ferns for winter!

FLOWERS AMONG THE FARMERS.

An evening meeting of farmers and others was held during the late New York State Fair, to discuss the subjects of Fruits and Flowers. To us was assigned the work of opening the discussion on Flowers. We took occasion to urge upon farmers the necessity of making home pleasant and attractive to both sons and daughters; that in no other way could the youth of the country be made to love the old home, and take an interest in farming. We endeavored to show that in Europe farming was considered one of the most honorable vocations, ranking with the professions of Law, Medicine and Divinity, and far above commerce or manufactures, but in this country, to speak of a man as a *Farmer* or *Granger* was almost a term of reproach. This ought not so to be, and will not be a great while longer, for no class of men in the world are improving so rapidly in intelligence, wealth and refinement. No class, however, can resolve themselves *great*, or their profession *honorable*. They must become so, and people will soon find it out.

BOYS, HOW IS THAT?—Mr. BARRY, President of the New York State Agricultural Society, remarked at an evening meeting, held during the last Fair, that in traveling through the country, he noticed that farmers seldom had good lawns, or even well-kept flower gardens. He did sometimes see the young ladies of a family trying to play croquet among the weeds and dust, and tall grass, while he had good reason to believe their brothers were away from home driving 2.40 horses. Such boys will not become very great men. We would give as much for a set of scarecrows as for such fellows.

CASABA MELON.—One of our subscribers from the city of Smyrna, called upon us recently, and among other interesting facts, stated that the Casaba melon reaches perfection only in the neighborhood of that city. The seeds, when taken to other places, produce pretty good fruit for one season, but the next season it is decidedly deficient in flavor, making it necessary to procure seeds from the original source every season.

ASTERS FOR WINTER FLOWERS.—This number may reach some of our readers who have grown Asters the past summer, before the plants have been destroyed by frost. If so, we would say that Asters can be taken up in full bloom and potted, and will furnish flowers during the early winter. Select the youngest and most vigorous plants.

FRUITS OF EXPERIENCE.

Every year, and almost every day, we learn something new, something so simple and so reasonable that we are surprised we had not known it long before. This is true of every thoughtful, observing worker in the garden. This information we shall give our readers, and we desire our friends to do the same. Please furnish us with facts gleaned from your experience for the benefit of all. This any one and all can do. We do not require fine writing, but simple facts; even statements of difficulties and failures may result in something good. When in Europe we loved to spend an hour or two among the old, working gardeners. They were free to talk, and developed a great many odd notions and old prejudices, but among the dross we found some pure gold. The following, from a friend in Ontario, shows the true spirit:—

Dear Sir:—It was only yesterday that I thought of writing to you to suggest the publication of a Monthly, as set forth in your circular received to-day. I highly applaud the venture, and am satisfied of its success. You shall shortly receive my subscription, with that, I trust, of others here, to whom I have spoken. If I might be allowed to suggest anything it would be this,—that some of your most erudite subscribers be asked to contribute now and then, and thus relieve you of some work at all events. Such a publication has been for a long time wanted; one which treats of the garden alone, to the exclusion of the hog-pen and wool market. An immense amount of information most valuable might be disseminated if your book, or periodical, were the vehicle of the interchange of ideas among floriculturists, and if a portion of it were devoted to the publication of letters, with replies to them if questions were put on floricultural subjects. And I myself would be happy to know a thing or two about gardening.—R. O'HARA, Chatham, Ont. Aug. 30.

STRANGE CONDUCT OF AN OLEANDER.—Mrs. Dr. WOODWARD, of Elmira, N.Y., thus describes the singular conduct of an Oleander:—“Last year I set the pot in the earth, and in the fall, when I took it out, the plant was full of buds. I gave it an abundance of water, hoping thus to develop the buds, but they showed no gratitude, but continued to diminish in size until the poor, shrunken buds looked out pitifully through the green leaves. I had too much compassion to remove them, though tempted to do so on several occasions. The tree continued to grow beyond the buds, and behold! a few weeks since the same buds began to swell, and now they are in blossom. Immense clusters of blossoms are about half way on the limbs, while at the apex of each limb are fine clusters of buds lately formed, the tree looking singularly enough. The tree is in rather a small pot, and receives eight quarts of water per day. Did you ever know buds to blossom that had been formed nearly a year?”

FROM ABROAD.

In a recent number of *The Garden*, the excellent London horticultural journal, the editor speaks of a visit from one of our young horticulturists, WILLIAM C. BARRY, son of P. BARRY, Esq. Mr. B. expressed to the editor his surprise at the absence from English lawns of the beautiful Cut-Leaved Birch, a tree so popular in America. We observed this fact, and also enquired the reason, without receiving much satisfaction. Indeed, little seemed to be known of this tree by ordinary planters. Mr. BARRY has just returned, and in a recent interview, when comparing American with European gardening, we were pleased to find our opinion upon one important fact endorsed,—that American gardens, as a rule, are too large,—that the same labor expended upon half the quantity of land would produce results far more satisfactory. The effect produced in Europe, and particularly in France, upon lawns but a few feet square is a wonder. We hope to be able to give some sketches in our next that will illustrate this subject, and show our readers how much can be accomplished with a lot not much larger than an ordinary room.

DOUBLE DATURA.—The Datura is a coarse plant, but its large flowers are a surprise to those who see them for the first time. The wild Stramonium is a Datura, and many who see the plant before the flowers are formed think they have been deceived and have only the Jamestown Weed, as the wild Stramonium is called, instead of a garden flower. Rev. J. FRICK, a German friend, of Zoar, Indiana, writes:

I hope it will give you as much pleasure to you to know, as it gave me to see the appearance of a double Datura yesterday. For the first time I saw such a flower. The grandeur, beauty and fragrance is excellent. The length of the first opened flower is six inches, and the opening six inches in diameter. He who sees the flower for the first time might think there were three large flowers stuck in one another. The plant is a strong grower, and promises a new pleasure every evening. Robinson's Champion Cabbage promises to give me 60-pounders.

PRESSED FERNS.—Those who live where they can obtain ferns will find them, when pressed, the very prettiest and most durable of winter ornaments. The only trouble in saving them is they begin to curl up just as soon as gathered, and in this condition pressing is difficult. Press them between white paper, and it is well to take a stiff-covered portfolio to the fields and press as gathered.

In our next number we shall probably give two colored plates.

OUR FLORAL PREMIUMS FOR 1878.

We have endeavored to encourage the culture of flowers in every possible way, and we now authorize the officers of every State and Territorial Agricultural Society in the United States (and where there are two prominent Societies in one State, both,) and the Provinces of Canada, to offer, in my behalf, the following premiums:

For Best Collection of Cut Flowers, . .	\$20 00
Second Best " " " "	10 00
Third Best " " " "	5 00
Fourth Best " " " "	Floral Chromo.

The offer is made to amateurs only, and the flowers to be exhibited at the usual Annual Fairs. The awards to be made by the regular Judges, or by any committee appointed for the purpose. Also,

For the Best Ornamental Floral Work,
(either Bouquet or Floral Ornament,) . . . \$5 00

We also authorize the Officers of EVERY COUNTY SOCIETY in America to offer one of our FLORAL CHROMOS for best exhibition of Cut Flowers. Now, let us have some grand exhibitions of flowers.

POT MARIGOLD.—Will you please tell me where the old Pot Marigold can be obtained, or the seed of it? In England it is used for a flavoring for boiled mutton. I have searched the seedsmen's catalogues and cannot find it.—M., Burlington, N. J.



The old Pot Marigold is *Calendula officinalis*, and under this name you will find it in the catalogues. The flowers

are used for flavoring sauce, like Capers. They are double and single, and both equally good for culinary purposes.

OUR PUBLICATIONS.—We are asked if we design to continue the publication of our *Price List* and *Floral Guide*. This we shall publish twice each year, the first of *December* and the first of *September*, and it will be forwarded to all who desire, for simply the postage—a three cent stamp. The number will contain a list of Seeds, Bulbs, etc., for Spring Planting. The September number a list of Bulbs, Plants, etc., suitable for Fall Planting and flowering in the house.

KNOWLEDGE AND PLEASURE.—We have been favored with a look at the manuscript of a New Botanical Game, Uncle Charlie's Illustrated Game of Botany, somewhat after the plan of the Authors' Game, and designed to afford both fun and a knowledge of the rudiments of Botany, the kind of instruction given in the article, on page eight, *Botany for Little Folks*. It is to be published for the holidays.

PRICE OF VICK'S ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE.

SINGLE SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.25.

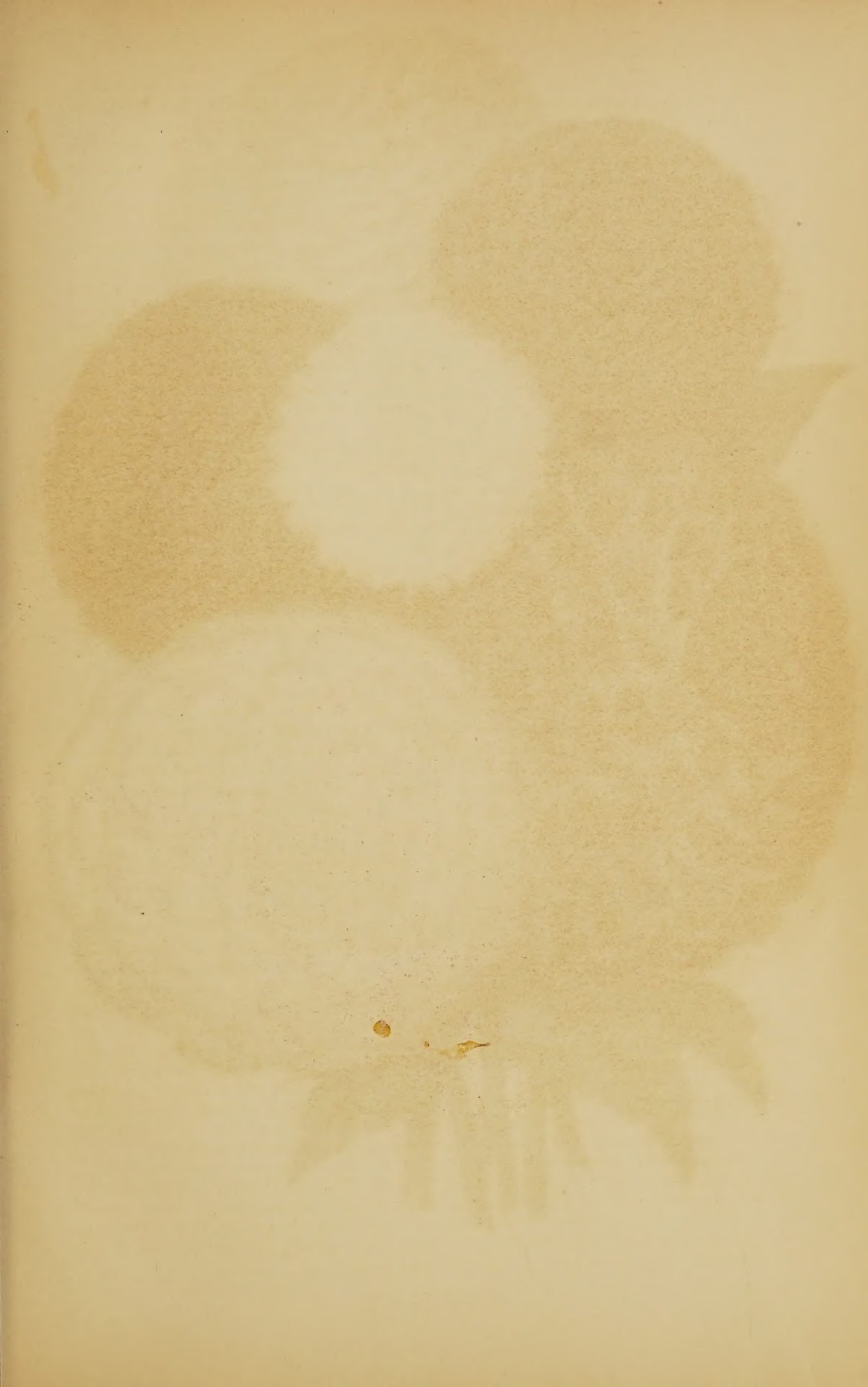
OFFERS FOR CLUBS.—CLUBS OF FIVE OR MORE, furnished at \$1.00 a copy, or five copies for \$5.00. These clubs need not be sent to one address or one post-office, but any way that will best suit the convenience of subscribers. Any person, therefore, going among the neighbors and getting a club of four subscribers, secures a copy free. Thus the young people and children who have not the money to spare, can get our MAGAZINE by taking a little trouble. When persons already take the MAGAZINE, or may not need it, having a copy already in the family, for the *Four Subscribers* sent with *Five Dollars* we will forward as a premium one of our \$1.50 *Floral Chromos*, postage or expressage pre-paid, or the same sum in any seeds they may desire, selected from our priced catalogue.

TO EDITORS.

Every printer and publisher and editor knows that we can't make much money in publishing a monthly Magazine of 32 pages, on fine paper, with elegant illustrations, and a colored plate with each number, at \$1.25 a year. We can, however, do a great deal of good, and we can aid other editors in disseminating a taste for flowers over the land. What we propose is to furnish editors with electrotypes of any engravings we may publish, for use in their publications, at merely the cost of electrotyping and postage; and this will be only 15 cents a square inch. This will give our editorial friends an opportunity to illustrate and beautify their papers, and give their readers a knowledge of what is new and interesting in the floral world.

WINTER PLEASURES FOR FARMERS.—Farmers in this country live isolated. In Germany, farmers dwell in villages, so that in the evenings, and especially during the leisure season, they have their social pleasures—lectures, concerts, and all sorts of convivial gatherings. There are advantages in both systems, but during the winter the farmer in America is deprived of a good many privileges enjoyed by those who dwell in cities and large villages. It is his duty, therefore, in the first place, to make home pleasant, and to encourage social intercourse, gatherings of neighbors in clubs, etc., and in every way endeavor to make the winter season pleasant and profitable.

GLOBE MANGEL WURTZEL.—GEORGE R. COLLINS, of Hartstown, Pa., is much pleased with the Globe Mangel, for feed. He grew them last summer twenty-seven inches in circumference.





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DAHLIAS